

The fight over the overlooked Prop 54

UC Regent Ward Connerly talks with the B.A.R. about his controversial initiative.

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'Drenched' in success

New management, new film for Falcon Studios.

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Fall arts preview

Upcoming theatre, film, dance, art, music.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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AHF's ad against Trizivir

Trizivir ad generates controversy

by Bob Roehr

An ad attacking the AIDS drug Trizivir ran in the *Washington Blade* on August 29 and is scheduled to run in *Frontiers* in Los Angeles. It carried a bold red headline "Trizivir Warning" and advised in smaller black type that the drug should not be taken alone.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation, based in Los Angeles, placed the ad as part of its ongoing feud with the pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline, which manufactures Trizivir. AIDS doctors and service organizations reacted to the ad and AHF's efforts against the drug with concern and frustration.

Trizivir is a combination of three nucleoside analogs, AZT, 3TC, and abacavir. The single pill taken twice a day is easy to use and is the fifth largest selling AIDS drug in the United States.

In March the National Institutes of Health stopped the Trizivir arm of a clinical trial because it was "inferior" to arms that contained Sustiva. It found that after 32 weeks, 21 percent of the Trizivir group but only 10 percent of the Sustiva group experienced virologic "failure," which was defined very conservatively as a viral load greater than 200. Those with detectable viral loads who were on Trizivir also were more likely to have developed viral mutation resistance points to nucleoside analogs.

In a letter to the FDA on August 19, AHF asked that agency to withdraw market approval of Trizivir, banning its sale. It charged that the drug "has been shown to have minimal effectiveness ... that renders it unsafe." It also wants to stop the company from advertising it as a one-pill regimen.

AHF Executive Director Michael Weinstein acknowledged in a phone conversation that their pharmacies continue to stock Trizivir. He said, "We don't interfere in the practice of

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Schwarzenegger's use of 'fag' in old interview 'troubles' gays

by Ed Walsh

Arnold Schwarzenegger is downplaying comments he made in a *Oui* magazine interview from 1977 in which he used the term "fag" and discussed having group sex with a woman.

"My crazy days," the gubernatorial candidate told reporters shouting questions at him as he made his way through a crowd during his Labor Day appearance at the California State Fair in Sacramento. When first confronted about the interview after it surfaced on TheSmokingGun.com Web site last week, Schwarzenegger said he didn't remember it and that he never lived his life with



Arnold Schwarzenegger is drawing criticism for his use of the word 'fag' in a 1977 magazine interview.

intention of becoming a politician.

Schwarzenegger told the now-defunct adult men's magazine: "Men shouldn't feel like fags just because they want to have nice-looking bodies. ... Gay people are fighting the same kind of stereotyping that bodybuilders are: People have certain misconceptions about them just as they do about us. Well, I have absolutely no hang-ups about the gay business."

Geoff Kors, the executive director of Equality California, a statewide

LGBT rights group, said he found the comments "troubling." Equality California has come out against the recall.

"I would hope he would acknowledge that he wouldn't use a term like 'faggot' again the way he did," Kors said. "The flip side is that he also said that bodybuilders have to face the wrong stereotypes and that that is also true of gay men. It would have been nice if he used a different term, but I think there was something that was positive he said as well."

Openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who is actively campaigning against the recall, took a harsher view of Schwarzenegger's remarks.

"He was aged 29. So I would just point out that he was no youngster at the time [of the *Oui* interview]. It was crude, rude, homophobic, and misogynist at best."

Many on both the religious right and the left took issue with Schwarzenegger's description of his participation in group sex in a Southern California gym.

The article quotes Schwarzenegger: "There was a black girl who came out naked. Everybody jumped on her and took her upstairs, where we all got together."

Toni Broaddus, program director for Equality California, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that she considered Schwarzenegger's description "close to rape."

"That's a reasonable concern," her boss, page 21 ►

Gay men vie for governorship

by Matthew S. Bajko

For voters looking to take a political stand in the recall campaign against Governor Gray Davis, they could cast their vote for either of two openly gay men listed on the recall ballot.

The two are the first-ever out gay men to be gubernatorial candidates for the major political parties in America. If one was elected, he would become the nation's first openly gay governor.

While the possibility is there, neither stands much of a chance at winning. In fact, one doesn't even want the job.

Ronald Jason Palmieri, 53, a lifelong Democrat and gay rights attorney in Los Angeles, maintains that he is not really interested in governing the world's fifth-largest economy.

In fact, the longtime donor to the Democratic Party and a stalwart in the Los Angeles political and social scene, Palmieri said he opposes the recall and believes Davis should remain in office.

"I believe this is an attempt by the Republican Party to steal the governorship of the state of California," Palmieri said.

According to his campaign Web site, Palmieri filed the necessary papers required to appear on the ballot on August 9, making him "the first openly gay man to ever appear as a member of one of the two major parties in the United States to appear on a statewide

ballot for governor and the first openly gay man to appear on the ballot in California for the office of governor."

Palmieri, who is single, is the only son of Paul Palmieri, a well-known jazz guitarist and composer, and Lillian Matis, an internationally acclaimed lyricist. A graduate of University of Southern California and Georgetown University's law school, Palmieri has worked as a lawyer in Los Angeles since 1976. His clients have included

Cary Grant, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Hildegard Knef, Linda Hopkins, director George Sidney, and soap opera star Heather Tom.

In 1986, he founded The Mother Cares Foundation with spokeswoman Zelda Rubinstein, star of the film *Poltergeist* and television series *Picket Fences*, which was one of the first campaigns of its kind in Los Angeles urging abstinence and safe sex in light of the then burgeoning AIDS crisis. Since then he has raised money for numerous AIDS charities and served on the board of directors for the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Since he joined the recall race, Palmieri has garnered media attention, with a front page article in the *Los Angeles Times* as well



Jim Vandeventer Jr.

as interviews on National Public Radio and in the gay press. But he said he isn't running so he can receive his 15 minutes of fame.

"I am famous already. I am very well-known in the litigation community. If anything the attention was something that caused me pause. I don't need this attention," he said. "I am doing it for a political reason. I think [the recall] is an outrageous act and an insult to the democratic process."

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AB205 one step closer to law

by Zak Szymanski

In many ways, the California recall election is the best thing to happen to LGBT issues. Faced with nothing to lose, the usually centrist Democratic Governor Gray Davis has adopted a "progressive" label and has already signed or promised to sign some landmark LGBT legislation.

AB205, the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003, was passed by the state Senate last week and at press time, awaited final approval by the Assembly before heading to Davis's

desk. The bill, by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), would grant registered domestic partners nearly all of the state rights, benefits, and responsibilities currently granted only to married spouses, including child custody and child and spousal support obligations, the right to make funeral arrangements, community property, and mutual responsibility for debts.

Davis publicly pledged last month to sign the bill, which means it looks as though California is on the brink of implementing the most comprehensive set of domestic partnership rights of-

fered anywhere in the country. If signed into law, only Vermont, which offers legalized civil unions, would have more expansive rights for gay couples.

Of course, this also means that domestic partners may have to give more thought before registering their couplehood. Like marriage, the imminent law would grant not just benefits but joint responsibilities, which means domestic partnership registration will no longer offer the sort of "in-between" commitment that some couples may actually prefer.

"I think society benefits when

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Rally for gay conscientious objector tonight

by Zak Szymanski

A variety of Bay Area antiwar, social justice, and LGBT groups will gather tonight (Thursday, September 4) from 5-7 p.m. at Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro to show support for the openly gay Marine Lance Corporal Stephen Funk, the only member of the U.S. military to be charged with desertion for claiming conscientious objector status during the war in Iraq.

Funk, who left his San Jose marine base without permission out of opposition to killing people, turned himself in April 1 and had expected to receive a punishment of desk duty. Instead, the United States military has taken the unusual step of prosecuting Funk for desertion; his court-martial trial

begins today in New Orleans. Funk faces a bad conduct discharge and possible jail time.

"Under media attention, the military initially claimed my application for discharge would be handled quickly and fairly, and that I would likely receive only non-judicial punishment for my unauthorized absence," wrote Funk in a publicly circulated June 26 letter, which was distributed through various organizations and e-mail lists. "Now that public scrutiny has died down the military says that I deserve to be convicted."

Although Funk may have faced an easier battle if he sought discharge under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy against homosexuals, he has insisted that his sexual orientation did not play a part in his decision to leave the

military.

"It wouldn't have been honest to use being gay as a way out," Funk said at a San Francisco gathering in his honor earlier this summer. "The thing in my mind the whole time was that I was being prepared to kill, and that would have affected me whether I was gay or not."

"He didn't want to be discharged for that [DADT] reason," echoed Steve Collier, Funk's attorney, who believes that the military's prosecution is in retaliation for Funk's speaking out publicly against the war. The initial court-martial trial, which is expected to last through tomorrow, September 5, will likely result in a conviction, said Collier, who has taken the case pro bono and expects to see it through a lengthy appeals process.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

East Bay Pride kicks off this weekend

by Zak Szymanski

Never a city to accept being overshadowed by the more famous city across the bay, Oakland has a long history of making a name for itself in sports, music, arts, and culture. Now, as East Bay Pride enters into its seventh year, the city may also lay claim to hosting and producing one of the most successful LGBT gatherings in the country, a venue for LGBT artists and community groups that focuses around one weekend but includes a variety of events that run all month long.

Although June is typically known as Pride month across America, Oakland's East Bay Pride takes place annually in September, when the weather is hot, and local gay people and organizations have more time to participate. This year's main event is Sunday, September 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Ogawa Plaza at Oakland's City Hall at 14th & Broadway streets.

Additionally, in conjunction with the big event, the OUTThere Queer Performing Arts Festival runs through the end of the month, which includes the PeaceOUT World Homo-Hop Festival from September 11-14 at the Oakland Metro Theatre on 4th and Broadway.

And for the first time ever, East Bay Pride will produce a Hayward Pride event on Saturday, Septem-

ber 13 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Main Street between A & B streets.

Oakland Pride

Always the main attraction of East Bay Pride, Oakland's event features five different Pride stages, including the 92.7 party/house stage, the KMLE hip-hop stage, the WILD 94 Latin stage, and the KPFA alternative rock stage. The area's best DJs and local talent will appear, including Page Hodel, Matthew Baker, Ezzy Medina, Olga T, Chee San Francisco, The Transformers, Deep Dickollective, Nigel Pepper Cock, Chi Chi Palace, Jenro, Gunpowder, Katatrophe, and Urban Hermitt. A special "Zen Chill Zone" stage will also be available for people needing some quiet time.

Oakland's event also features over 100 nonprofit, artisan, government, commercial and food vendors, as well as a new food court.

"Our exhibitors are the primary focus of East Bay Pride; we're not nearly as commercial as other Pride celebrations," said East Bay Pride founder and president Pete King. "Our mission is to provide a venue for queer artists and to gain visibility for the community in the city of Oakland. And through that we can increase our presence in the city's cultural and political fabric."

An estimated 7,500 people are expected to attend Sunday's event.

Admission is \$5, but children under 10 are free when accompanied by a paid adult. The event is accessible via the 12th Street BART station or by car; paid parking is available at City Center and free garage parking is at Garage West, two blocks from the site.

Related events

This year's OUTThere Queer Performing Arts Festival takes place at various venues through September.

The third annual PeaceOUT World Homo-Hop Festival features queer MCs, rappers, spinners, spoken word and performance artists, and a documentary screening.

Other arts festival events include "Radical Bed Death: A Night of Boy Bands, Burlesque, and more," on Friday, September 19, sponsored by the Transformers and Vixen Creations.

Saturday, September 20 is "Women Singing Out"; visit www.roestreetmusic.com for more information.

Sunday, September 21 features Dr. Carol Queen and friends for a sex-positive literary gathering. On Friday, September 26 is a CD release party for Hanifah Walidah and Deep Dickollective, and on Saturday, September 27 is the "East Bay Pride Punk Show."

For more information on locations, times, and admission to

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Watch this Space... More to Come

Peterson runs for Hayward school board

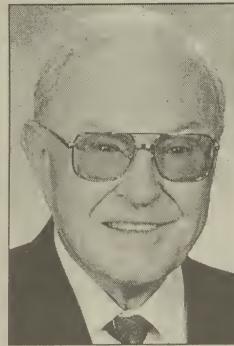
by Cynthia Laird

A desire to give back to the city he's called home for 40 years has led Grant F. Peterson to enter the race for a seat on the Hayward school board in the East Bay. The openly gay Peterson, who taught and counseled students for years in the neighboring New Haven Unified School District, says he has what it takes to be an effective board member who can work with teachers, district staff, and the community.

Peterson will formally kick off his campaign tonight (Thursday, September 4) at the Hampton Inn in Hayward. He counts openly gay City Council member Kevin Dowling among his supporters, and Peterson told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his background in education should serve him well.

The Hayward district has had its share of turmoil this year, with Joan Kowal, the former superintendent, being forced out of her contract amid allegations of mismanagement, which she denied in published reports. Jay Trotter is the interim superintendent. There are three seats on the school board up for election on November 4; two incumbents are seeking re-election; the third, Betty DeForest, a longtime PFLAG supporter, is not running again.

In addition to Peterson, an openly lesbian candidate, Sara



Candidate Grant Peterson

Gonzales, is also running, as are two other candidates.

"I think there are very few philosophical differences between us," Peterson said of Gonzales, who used to work for the district.

Peterson, 74, retired in 1990 after a long career as a teacher and school counselor. He also served as vice principal of counseling and pupil services in New Haven for many years.

Peterson said he decided to enter the school board race after being approached by a teacher in the district. He feels he is up to the task.

"I want to emphasize safety issues, both for kids and staff," he said.

For many years, Peterson has been active in the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, where he serves on the national board. He was instrumental in merging the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators with

GLSEN in the mid-1990s, so that the Bay Area group could become part of the national organization. Since 1996, Peterson has conducted 150 workshops for teachers, administrators, students, and parents on LGBT youth issues.

But dealing with the Hayward district's financial woes will likely be Peterson's big challenge if elected. As he pointed out, Hayward schools are in a "terrible" financial situation, with the county rejecting the district's budget. While the current budget mess is expected to be resolved before the election, the state budget deficit, the sluggish economy, and uncertainty over the recall election may mean more shortfalls for school districts in the state.

"Budgets have to be addressed," Peterson said. "And when cuts are made, they should be made as far away from the classroom as you can. Kids need to be first."

Peterson knows a lot about the need for LGBT students to have safe places at school, usually through the popular gay-straight alliances, of which there are several in various Hayward schools. He also served on the advisory panel for AB537, the schools act that was signed into law a few years ago.

Over the course of the next several weeks, Peterson said he expects to be invited to various candidate forums and endorsement meetings. So far he's raised about \$9,800 for the campaign, he said. ▼

Those interested in Peterson's campaign can e-mail him at grantinh@aol.com.

Connolly cleared of charges

by Matthew S. Bajko

Sean Connolly, a city commissioner attacked with homophobic language by a local Filipino newspaper after allegedly making racially insensitive comments to a fellow commissioner, has been cleared of all charges.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported last week that investigators found no evidence to support claims by Jacqueline Lingad Ricci that Connolly had disparaged her ethnicity during a June 3 meeting of the Juvenile Probation Commis-

sion and cursed at her afterward.

"The allegations by Ms. Ricci that Mr. Connolly made racist or sexist comments to her cannot be sustained," states a report of the inquiry by Oakland City Attorney John Russo.

Russo's office conducted the investigation into the matter at the request of San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera, since Connolly is a deputy city attorney.

Ricci had claimed that Connolly made the comments during a closed meeting of the commission in which the panel was debating

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Matt Gonzalez launches mayoral campaign

by Zak Szymanski

Even the self-identified Tom Ammiano supporters were hooting and applauding at the mayoral campaign launch for Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez on Tuesday, September 2.

It was hard not to. Regardless of his odds of winning or criticism for entering the race, Gonzalez has re-framed the mayoral conversation, refusing to water down his message and instead trusting that even the most moderate of voters would embrace more lefty ideas if only all the facts were presented.

"If we educate people on the issues, the voters will figure it out," Gonzalez said, emphasizing that progressive ideas are normal ideas that would appeal to all voters if all the information was out there. "That's what this race is about: telling people the truth."

It was a sentiment echoed by other speakers at the 111 Minna Street gallery, which was packed with a diverse crowd holding Gonzalez posters and wearing "Matt for Mayor" buttons. Despite being a member of the Green Party and unapologetically leftist, speakers noted, Gonzalez has attracted the support of even more conservative politicians like Supervisor Tony Hall, an attraction that can be attributed, noted Public Defender Jeff Adachi, to Gonzalez's track record of always doing "absolutely the right thing for absolutely the right reason."

Although he chose to forgo the typical campaign catch phrases that promise to "unify" voters and "offer real solutions," Gonzalez still managed to accomplish those goals at the rowdy kickoff, simply by breaking down, dollar for dol-



Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez at his mayoral campaign kickoff Tuesday.

lar, how and where money for homeless efforts and business incentives has been squandered, spent, and misrepresented.

Taking issue with mayoral front-runner Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Care Not Cash, Gonzalez pointed out that the money for the services promised by the ballot initiative could easily have been found in a few votes by Newsom that "cost the city \$90,000," including Newsom's vote in favor of long-term energy contracts worth \$35 million.

Insisting that being "in favor of common sense" does not mean being "against" business, Gonzalez stressed that when businesses come into the city looking for high density developments, they should also be willing to "deal with the mitigating costs," such as more city services and busses that will be needed to accommodate such projects.

Progressive ideals in San Francisco are "way beyond" what

might frame other cities' elections, said Gonzalez, noting that issues like gay marriage and other basic civil rights are not really up for debate in this campaign. What it comes down to, he said, are whether "the established wealthy entities get what they want," over the community. And thus far, a glance at the politics of Mayor Willie Brown and Newsom, he said, have not made San Francisco a better place.

"The answer is not, 'In these hard economic times we can't trust a progressive to lead, we need the status quo millionaire candidate,'" said Gonzalez, who has thus far raised over \$50,000 and believes he can win on a \$250,000 campaign. He believes it is a truthful, articulated message that should win over voters, not flashy, expensive campaigning.

"I think anyone who needs more money than that to win," he said, "should not be the mayor of San Francisco." ▼

State legal groups honor young gay lawyer

by Zak Szymanski

ike many people embarking upon a new career in a tenuous job market, Eric Lifschitz wanted to put his skills to use in the community while he waited for that perfect employment opportunity. Shortly after graduating from law school and passing the bar in 2001, Lifschitz began donating his time to the San Francisco Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services Program, offering his pro bono legal assistance to local families facing eviction.

What he found in the process was a career that combined the many aspects of his life experience, allowing him to start making a living while empowering people who are often disenfranchised.

The openly gay Lifschitz, 31, will be honored with the California Young Lawyers Association's Jack Berman Award of Achievement tomorrow (Friday, September 5), during a reception at the California Bar Association's annual convention in Anaheim.

The Berman Award honors a



Attorney Eric Lifschitz, right, with his partner, John V. Gormley.

young lawyer "who has provided outstanding service to the legal profession and public, and dedication to issues of concern to new and young lawyers."

Lifschitz, who received his Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco School of Law, actually spent his early adult years using his chemistry degree in the medical research and diagnostic fields. So when he began defending clients against evictions, he was able to detect – and test for – medically unhealthy living situations, most often in the form of toxic mold.

"I had a couple of cases where I met the families being evicted, and when I went to their homes I would see their disgusting apartments and say, 'Forget staying here. We need to get you the hell out of here,'" Lifschitz told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

In these cases Lifschitz would defend the eviction and negotiate move-out agreements, "then turn around and sue the landlords for them."

One of Lifschitz's most famous cases, co-counseled by attorney

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Cynthia LairdARTS EDITOR
Roberto FriedmanPOLITICAL EDITOR
Wayne FridayASSISTANT EDITORS
Matthew S. Bajko
Mark Mardon
Zak Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler • John Blanco
Dan Blue • Victoria A. Brownworth
Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter • Richard Dodds
Glen Helfand • Liz Highleyman • John E. Jeffreys
Brandon Judd • Robert Julian • John F. Karr
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ART DIRECTION & LAYOUT
Adrian RobertsAD PRODUCTION & DESIGN
T. Scott KingPRODUCTION ASSISTANT
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<http://www.ebar.com>

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com
Arts Editor • barsarts@aol.com
Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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Harris for district attorney

The race for San Francisco district attorney is wide open, as incumbent Terence Hallinan has come under increasing pressure to run an effective office in light of a string of blunders that has marred his two terms as the city's top prosecutor. Two candidates are challenging Hallinan; and while one, former prosecutor Bill Fazio, has run against Hallinan before, a new candidate, Kamala Harris, is also in the race, and we believe she would be best for the job.

We endorsed Hallinan during his first race. Four years ago, however, we chose Fazio, who was unsuccessful in defeating Hallinan. In the interim, nothing has changed our opinion of Hallinan – basically, we feel he is ineffective in several key areas that affect the safety of San Franciscans. His office remains an embarrassment, from the flip-flop in the "Fajita-gate" case to his utter inability to prosecute quality of life crimes. We've heard time and time again from San Francisco Police officers who arrest suspects on drug pedaling or aggressive panhandling charges only to have the suspects returned to the streets and the charges dropped. While certainly many homeless people are fairly law-abiding and keep to themselves, we know the Castro District is often a magnet for chronic drunks and others who aggressively panhandle, defecate on the front porches of residents and businesses, and are repeatedly suspected of involvement in assorted petty crimes. Merchants, homeowners, and renters in the gay mecca are frustrated and want action.

It's time for a fresh face. Harris, 38, is a former deputy district attorney in San Francisco and Alameda counties. She worked under Hallinan, but left to become a deputy city attorney. She knows the problems in the D.A.'s office call for new leadership, and she has the qualifications to provide that leadership. There are many professional, talented men and women working as prosecutors; what they need more than anything is the new direction and new focus a Harris administration would bring to the office.

Harris has called the city's policy on quality of life issues "a complete failure," that cannot be improved unless a new district attorney is elected. And Harris is correct when she says that many quality of life crimes involve substance abuse – 80 percent of the 15,000 citations issued in 2000. Incredibly, Hallinan's office handled only 300 of those cases, Harris says, and only 1 percent resulted in any kind of drug treatment.

Of course, the criminal justice system

cannot solve quality of life problems alone, but Harris is committed

to making dramatic improvements, including vigorously

prosecuting repeat offenders

who sell crack or heroin, and using the power

of the office to move repeat offenders of

quality of life crimes into effective treatment.

That approach is a good one. It's not that we

want to see every homeless person who piss-

es on the street locked up in jail; but we do want to see those with serious substance abuse problems get treatment, and more importantly, social services.

Police reform is another critical area. Relations between the SFPD and the D.A.'s office are chilly at best. Cops and prosecutors need to be able to work together in order to bring criminal cases to trial. While the SFPD has its own problems (something the next mayor must address), Harris is committed to police accountability, as well as providing leadership to ensure that the civilian Office of Citizens Complaints and the Police Commission work independently and in the public interest.

Harris has strong support in the LGBT community, and would be an asset to city government. On November 4, we urge you to vote for Kamala Harris for district attorney. ▼

Editorial



Limits of identity politics

by Bob Melbourne

In their guest opinion ("At the crossroads," August 14), the executive board of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club argues for identity politics, claiming that it's in the best interest of our community to elect either Supervisor Tom Ammiano or Treasurer Susan Leal mayor, mainly because they are gay and lesbian, respectively.

They claim such an election would help derail the Bush administration's homophobic agenda. If only things were that simple. Certainly, an openly gay or lesbian mayor would be wonderful, provided that individual was the best person for the job. Alas, despite some laudable achievements, neither of their candidates is.

The next mayor of San Francisco should be someone who champions LGBT rights, who can restart the city's moribund economy, increase home ownership opportunities for middle and working class families, address the tragedy of homelessness, continue appointing qualified LGBTs to key positions, and, most important, respect the will of the electorate. All of these issues are critical to LGBTs in San Francisco and for those who wish to move here.

Ammiano regards business as a tax cow, to be milked at will, and fails to realize how devastating the loss of major corporations has been to the city's economy. Not only won't he bring businesses back to the city, he, Matt Gonzalez, and Angela Alioto will likely drive more employers away. A thriving business community is crucial to LGBTs because we need good jobs to afford to live in San Francisco, one of the few places where we are safe to be ourselves and fully participate in the political, social, economic, and cultural life of the city. Without high paying jobs, many of us will be forced to move elsewhere, often to places far less welcoming than San Francisco. Supervisor Gavin Newsom understands this very well, has an excellent eco-

nomic plan, and a sound relationship with the business community, which admires his entrepreneurial successes.

Similarly, home ownership is an important component of economic empowerment and is critical to LGBTs, because without it, most of us won't be able to retire to San Francisco, and will be driven elsewhere. One affordable way to buy homes is through tenancies-in-common. In 2000, voters rejected an attempt to restrict this form of home ownership. However, a "progressive" super-majority of the Board of Supervisors supported Jake McGoldrick's legislation that did exactly what the electorate refused to do – severely limit TICs, a form of ownership especially critical to same-sex couples. Supervisors Ammiano and Gonzalez voted in favor of McGoldrick's bill, flaunting the will of the voters in the process. Supervisor Newsom respected the voters' mandate and opposed McGoldrick's legislation. (A San Francisco Superior Court judge has ruled McGoldrick's bill illegal, but the city is appealing that decision.)

Ammiano served two terms as president of the board, yet under his leadership, nothing was done about homelessness, except spending record sums that exacerbated the problem. Last year, the electorate was asked to vote on two propositions regarding this tragedy. The first, sponsored by Newsom, Care Not Cash, passed overwhelmingly. The second, Exits from Homelessness, sponsored by Ammiano, failed. A Superior Court judge then ruled that only the supervisors, not the electorate, could make decisions regarding the nature of General Assistance to the indigent and struck down the voters' mandate. Consequently, Newsom introduced Care Not Cash as legislation before the board, in effect asking his colleagues to ratify what the electorate approved. Rather

than endorse the will of the people, Supervisors Ammiano and Gonzalez, along with Treasurer Leal, opposed Newsom's legislation. With support from Ammiano and Leal, the full board enacted a plan that differs substantially from what the electorate mandated. Fortunately, the city is appealing the court ruling regarding passage of Care Not Cash, so it's possible the will of the voters eventually will be implemented.

Alioto, Gonzalez, and Newsom have strong pro-LGBT records, and will continue advancing our rights, just like former Assessor Doris Ward and current Assessor Mabel Teng, both straight, have in giving surviving domestic partners the same treatment that surviving spouses receive regarding property taxes – a policy subsequently implemented by out lesbian Carole Migden and the state Board of Equalization. As Governor Gray Davis's pending

signing of landmark domestic partners legislation proves, we need our heterosexual allies if we are to attain legal equality. Newsom's paid and volunteer staff has many openly LGBTs in key positions. He voted in favor of the city's landmark domestic partner and transgender benefits legislation and campaigned for two openly gay candidates, Mark Leno and Bevan Duffy, in their successful runs for public office. Ammiano and the Harvey Milk Club opposed them both.

The majority of our community knows that electing Gavin Newsom mayor will most benefit us and the city as a whole. The Harvey Milk Club's failure to see this underscores its increasing irrelevance to San Francisco politics and to most LGBTs living here, which, given the legacy of their namesake, is regrettable. ▼

Guest Opinion

Bob Melbourne is a senior citizen who has lived in the Castro for 25 years.

LETTERS

A great loss

It broke my heart to learn of the death of Rick Hooper in Baghdad ("Gay UN employee dies in Baghdad blast," August 28). Rick lived a life dedicated to peace, internationalism, and social justice. He was a diligent scholar and a tireless advocate for the poor, particularly in the Arab world, which was his specialty. He embodied the best of our community, and of humanity. The world is lesser for his loss.

His death is a reminder that war and violence solve nothing. Let us rededicate ourselves in his memory to the pursuit of peace.

Paul Quick, M.D.
San Francisco

Consider your choices

We must recognize that we are a special interest group. The party that traditionally claims our loyalty seems to have done precious little for us in the last 40 years, most of that time they were in power. If they truly had our interests in mind, there would now be nothing left to wish for.

We now see our governor, because he is threatened, tossing bones to us and every other special interest group that his party claims to represent. The question we must ask is, "Why now?" and "Why not earlier?"

Does his party really care about us, or are they just stringing us along, hoping to retain our loyalty, money, and votes.

Perhaps we should consider voting for the other party, which doesn't claim to represent only a collection of special interest but the public as a whole. Are we not whole people who have common interests with the public as a whole? Granted we have a particular interest, but the leading candidate of the other party seems to not be hostile to our interest and solidly grounded in life in general.

The governor's party says that Arnold Schwarzenegger doesn't have government experience. True, but our form of government is predicated on the belief that any solid, well rounded person is fit to hold office. Expertise can be bought, good character cannot and character is really about the only thing that matters. The governor has great experience and look where that got us!

Jim Keefer
San Francisco

Recalling Gray Davis

Do I recall Gray Davis? Certainly I do. He is that slim, gray-haired gentleman who just happens to be the governor of California, for now anyway. In fact, if I recall correctly, he was elected twice to that office. He is also the current whipping boy of the leading political party in this country. He is in trouble with his own political party, or at least with some of its members. He is accused of lying, among other things. And I am sure there are those in this state, and the country, who feel that he is solely responsible for the fact that California is billions of dollars in debt simply because he is governor.

Do I feel that Mr. Davis should be recalled? No. He is not a car whose front door is liable to fly off its hinges upon reaching 65 miles per hour. He is not a baby's toy that will fall apart into tiny swallowable pieces under the slightest pressure. He is not some bottled aspirin laced with poison. He is a politician and if it is proven that he did indeed lie to the citizenry of California he is not the first to do so nor will he be the last.

Recalling Governor Davis is not going to miraculously put California back in a sound financial position. The state's deficit was not created overnight. Nor can the deficit be reduced in the same amount of time. The state's budget mess certainly cannot be restored by telling school districts to lay off their grossly underpaid teachers, to drop curriculum and programs vital to our young people's growth and education, or to close down schools altogether thus forcing students to be herded into already overly crowded schools. Our state's debt will not be ended by telling police, fire, and sheriff's departments to make further cutbacks in personnel that can result in the decline in innocent people's security and safety. The billions of dollars California is in debt will not be found in our own government cutting back vital services to its citizenry so that those salaries paid to these government workers are eliminated. Sadly, though, these methods adopted by governments and politicians seem to be the standards used for trying to balance a budget.

Now if Gray Davis were not a politician, but were rich and popular, he would be free to use the methods at his disposal to recoup the financial losses California has now incurred. If Gray Davis were say, Arnold Schwarzenegger, he would be free to use his vast wealth to invest in California's drastically reduced social services. He could gather his Hollywood friends and get them to do the same. He could tap into the sources of more private wealth that have settled in this state in a campaign to save California from its economic troubles. If these private citizens, such as Mr. Schwarzenegger, who have money at their disposal, were to donate (or invest) in the future of their state, I feel certain that we would be debt free in less time than it would take

to recoup our lacking funds by making more and more cutbacks in the services I mentioned earlier. I ask Arnold to consider this proposal if he is truly interested in California's future. If Mr. Schwarzenegger were to leave politics to the politicians, he would be free to say and do much more for the state as a private citizen than he ever could as a politician.

After all is said and done, if this recall does go through resulting in our governor's removal from office, then I must ask the public to examine the actions of another politician who is sitting on a national debt that makes California's look like a mere drop in a bucket. Would he be next on the political recall list? Mmm, now there's a thought.

Tim Hume
San Francisco

Doesn't support Gonzalez

Eric Smith [Mailstrom, August 28] doesn't need to worry that the entry of Matt Gonzalez into the mayoral race will result in our abandoning Tom Ammiano and instead voting for Matt. We never supported Tom in the first place and we likewise do not support Matt.

Brian Geiger
San Francisco

Responsibilities of AB205

The domestic partners legislation [AB205] now before the California Legislature has been years in the making and has taken years of fighting to get it as far as it has come. I understand the urge of many of my fellow gays to get this legislation passed and our relationships legalized. However, I doubt that many of my fellow gays realize that this legislation may also have a very serious downside for many gay couples, especially HIV/AIDS patients and others with disabling illnesses.

For the many gay couples where one or both partners receive medical care through the California Medi-Cal program, two provisions in the proposed law could wreck havoc. With all the benefits the law grants, it also grants responsibilities. It makes each partner responsible for the other's care and financial support (just like husband and wife) and also makes all property community property under state law (again just like married couples). I wholeheartedly support this, since we deserve the responsibilities along with the benefits if we really want to be treated equally with married couples.

However, this has some major drawbacks for some of us in the community. Up until now the law has refused to acknowledge us as couples, so we had to be treated as individuals when having to qualify for state aid such as Medi-Cal, state financial aid programs, the state share of SSI payments, etc. This means that your partner's income and assets could not be considered because you legally could not be considered a couple sharing income and property.

Under the proposed new law this will change since registered partners will be responsible for each other's support and their property will be legally community property under state law. This opens the door to the possibility that the state will start denying or even revoking a lot of people's benefits based on the fact that one partner makes too much or together they own property over the legal limit for benefits.

With the new law looking like it will pass and the governor already saying he'll sign it, the gay community will have to face issues such as this one.

Another matter that this will drastically affect for gay couples is the fact that up until now, unless they took out credit jointly, each individual's bills were their own and the other could not be held liable for them. This meant that should one partner leave (either death or a breakup), their bills went with them.

Under the new community property provisions of the proposed law this will no longer be true. You can be held responsible for the debts that were incurred while you were registered partners. Also getting out of the relationship will be much harder and ex-partners can sue for alimony just like a divorcing married couple.

Personally, I would have to agree with these changes, after all, we can hardly fight to be treated equally and then demand that only those rules that help us be applied. However, each of us will need to think long and hard before registering if the new law succeeds. We will have to take our need for medical and other benefits and possible financial costs into consideration and weigh them against our want or need to be a legally recognized couple.

We will still have a choice in the matter, since only domestic partners registered with the state will have these rights and responsibilities. It is a shame, but like many straight couples, especially the elderly, we will have to weigh being a legal couple versus possible losses of income and benefits. This is one reason many older straight couples simply live together rather than get married, because they would lose financially. Many of us may find ourselves in the same boat and ironically, after fighting years to achieve legal status, may not be able to take advantage of the new law even if it does pass.

Robert Hamm
Sacramento, California

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Trans-versatility

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Transgender: it's a word that was originally coined to describe just one small group of individuals displaying a certain set of characteristics. Originally, a "transgenderist" was defined as a person living in a cross-gendered role, yet not desiring any surgical changes. Somewhere along the way, the word was expanded to include many more possibilities. In fact, the original meaning has all but fallen by the wayside, sitting in the dust bin of old definitions alongside "femophobe."

In its broadest state, "transgender" serves as an umbrella term over any number of varied identities, a single word that can encompass cross-dressers, androgynes, transsexuals, drag kings, and just about anyone else who transends the gender that was medically assigned to them at birth. Come one, come all.

I personally find "transgender" to be a remarkably versatile word. It can be an identity, a behavior, even just a very nebulous concept. It can exist as a noun, an adjective, and possibly even a verb or a gerund if given half a chance.

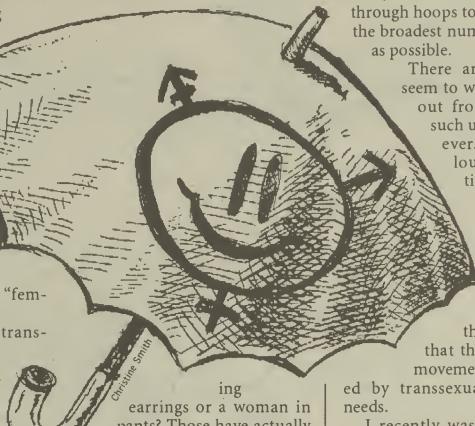
I use "transgender" as one of the many words to define myself, finding it easier than trying to break down my identity into a confusing muddle that can be more specific. For me, it is like saying "Caucasian" rather than "English, Irish, Scottish, German, French, and a pinch of Austrian for garnish."

It is regularly used as a political term, with the "T" filling the gap after LGB in the names of many larger community organizations and events, as well as standing on its own among large transgender-specific organizations. While the term has not come up in the nascent 2004 political elections – believe me, I've been trying – it has been on the lips of senators, governors, and others in the political arena for several years.

It can be more than simply an identity term. In fact, I think "transgender" is at its best when it is being used to identify behaviors or actions. When Liberian rebels took to the streets of Monrovia armed with assault rifles,

gowns, wigs, and purses, they were not identifying as transgender – but the action of doing so could be defined as a transgender action.

I'm not quite sure where the dividing line would be on that: would that include a man wear-



ing earrings or a woman in pants? Those have actually become pretty common for both of those genders. Somewhere between something as simple as that and, oh, full genital reassignment, hormone replacement, etc., lies a great number of gender and transgender behaviors, no? I'd rather not bother with such a line, but would just rather see things remain open to interpretation.

Of course, not everyone is nearly so enamored of this versatile term as I. In fact, there seem to be people on all sides of the debate, wanting to define and

redefine transgender as something other than what it has become – usually to exclude others from the mix.

A recent article in a major LGBT magazine dismissed the work of transgender activists as having largely been the work of transsexuals, and specifically, transsexuals and others for which gender identity was a bigger part of the picture than gender expression.

I was quite surprised by this, knowing that much of the gains of the last few years have been done by a mix of individuals, and have largely been designed to benefit the largest number of people as possible.

According to a recent analysis by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, legislation passed since 2000 is inclusive of gender expression roughly two-thirds of the time, but only four out of 35 exclusively mention "gender identity."

It has also been my experience from the trenches that those who are doing this sort of work are definitely not interested in bills that exclude large chunks of people who might be viewed by society at large as transgender – regardless of personal identity. Indeed, I've seen people go through hoops to try to include the broadest number of people as possible.

There are those who seem to want to be kept out from under any such umbrella, however. One of the loudest minorities who would rather not be labeled as transgender are often transsexuals: ironic in light of the above claim that the transgender movement is dominated by transsexuals and their needs.

I recently was sent a letter from one such person, asking that I stop "hijacking other's identities" by using "transgender" as an all-encompassing term. I'm not sure exactly how I was doing so, but if they are of a similar mindset of other transsexuals I have spoken with about this, it may well have something to do with not being mistaken with any others with a gender expression they would deem as "lesser" than their own.

Unfortunately, when I pressed them on any examples of me "hijacking" anything, or reasons why an umbrella term was not acceptable, I received no answer. Instead, I was simply asked to be inclusive of their exclusivity.

I've still not entirely figured out how I'm going to do that, but I can assure you that it will not mean me adding a full definition every time I use the word "transgender" to describe what I mean by its usage. It is, as I said earlier, a versatile word with many different usages.

I personally hope "transgender" continues to have a very free meaning, and be used to describe a large number of actions, groups, and individuals. The word may have started with a very specific meaning, but I like it as a term inclusive of the largest number of people or behaviors. An umbrella that I can stand under with a large and diverse group of people. ▼

Gwen Smith is still working on ways to use "transgender" within a split infinitive. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com.

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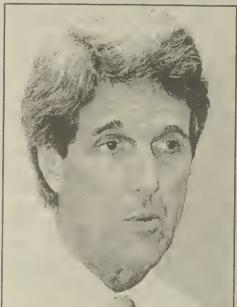


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John Kerry jump-starts White House bid

by Wayne Friday

Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, once considered the front-runner among Democratic presidential candidates, relaunched his candidacy for the White House this week by making an "official announcement" Tuesday in South Carolina, followed by a four-state swing that included stops in Iowa, New Hampshire, and his home state.



Senator John Kerry

zona, it is Dean's rise in Iowa and New Hampshire that has put Kerry's candidacy in danger. Dean's surge has posed several problems for Kerry: Dean has become something of a magnet for the liberals that Kerry had hoped to attract in that Dean has routinely attacked Kerry for supporting the Iraq war; he (Dean) is also from the same region as Kerry, and he is turning the important New Hampshire primary into a dogfight that some political analysts fear could doom the loser.

With both Kerry and Dean being from New England, **Darrell West**, a prominent political science professor at Brown University in Providence, this week told *USA Today* that "there's only one New Englander who's going to come out of New Hampshire, and it has to be Kerry, otherwise he's in very big trouble."

The same could be said

Our Man Friday



of Iowa, where neighboring Gephardt has been considered to be the likely winner of the state caucuses. If, as polls now indicate, Dean wins, Gephardt would likely also lose two weeks later in New Hampshire, making him all but a political asterisk after South Carolina and Arizona. Gephardt could well be political toast by the time the all-important California primary comes around in March, as could Kerry, assuming Dean wins Iowa and New Hampshire and places near the top in either South Carolina or Arizona.

Kerry's problems in New Hampshire appear to be due in part to the fact that he was simply "out-hustled" by Dean, a candidate who has had more time to campaign in that he has had no day job since leaving the Vermont governorship in January.

Other political problems seem unrelated to Dean as some voters view Kerry as being wealthy and stiff, whose stump style is lackluster and syntax is muddled, although on the campaign trail he jokes, hoists glasses of stout, squeezes back-slaps, and tries his best to dispel an impression of aloofness.

Kerry's layered position on Bush's Iraq war has also caused him some political problems in that he voted to authorize the war, but then criticized Bush for "rushing" into war without lining up combat troops and postwar help from other nations. Kerry has continued to criticize Bush after the president declared an "end to the hostilities" on May 1, suggesting that Bush may have "misled" Congress on evidence used to justify the war.

For his part, Kerry says his position on the Iraq war has always been clear in that he supported the war but not the way Bush went about it. Still, he draws charges of ambivalence from other Democratic candidates like the vocally anti-war Dean and the unabashed hawk, Lieberman. Kerry obviously knows his candidacy is in trouble but feels he has the time and money to yet make his case; he also has an electorate that is probably only just beginning to tune in.

Among Democratic Party professionals, it's hard to find anyone who disagrees with Kerry, unless,

obviously, you're talking to the Dean camp. Indeed, at this point in 1999, former New Jersey Senator **Bill Bradley** was leading Vice President **Al Gore** in New Hampshire. Gore was forced to re-think and improve his campaign and some feel that Dean will have a similar impact on Kerry's campaign.

All of this is not necessarily good news for those Democrats who want badly to retake the presidency in 2004. The Zogby Poll among New Hampshire voters revealed that those people preferred a take-no-prisoners Democrat to one who could actually have a better chance of ousting Bush. The likely New Hampshire voters are realists who readily acknowledge that Bush is a formidable foe; almost two-thirds – 64 percent – of those asked (including Democrats)

said they think Bush will likely win re-election

next year. Indeed, when those voters were asked whether it was more important to have a candidate like Dean who is willing to stand up for what they believe in or a candidate like Kerry who many feel would have a better chance of unseating Bush, these voters said they preferred the former by a 2-to-1 margin. The Zogby New Hampshire poll of 501 likely primary voters has an error margin of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

One thing is clear: as Kerry makes an all-out effort to recharge his presidential campaign this week, if he, or anyone else fails to stop Dean both in the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary, the former Vermont governor will be very hard to stop by the time of the California primary.

Politics and people

Sex, drugs and rockin' Arnold: When **Arnold Schwarzenegger** was asked by a conservative radio talk show host (he favors those type of shows) last week about a racy 1977 *Oui* magazine interview in which he detailed drug use and group sex, our action movie star candidate laughed it off by responding that, "I never lived my life to be a politician. I never lived my life to be the governor of California. Obviously, I've made statements that were crazy and outrageous and all those things, because that's the way I always was." Seasoned campaign folks had obviously gotten to Schwarzenegger by the next day, however, because when asked in Fresno about the now-infamous *Oui* interview, portions of which were posed on *The Smoking Gun*, Schwarzenegger snapped that he "couldn't remember it" and refused to comment at all on it.

As for the interview, well, Schwarzenegger, who was plugging the *Pumping Iron* flick, had little trouble promoting either the film or himself. Schwarzenegger, single and 29 at the time, said "Bobbybuilders party a lot, and once, in Gold's – the gym in Venice, California, where all the top guys train – there was a black girl who came out naked. Everybody jumped on her and took her upstairs, where we all got together." The interviewer asked: a "gang

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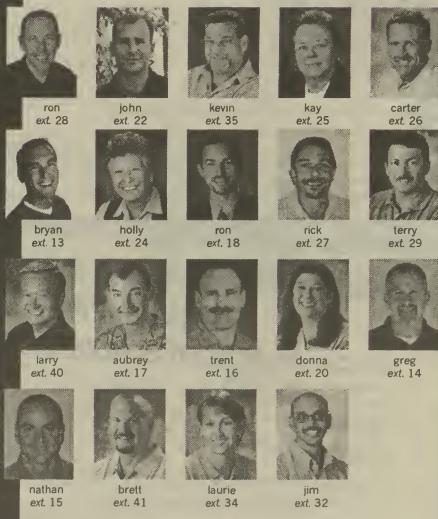
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I have a dream... of what?

by Dale Carpenter

We are often told, especially by gay-left organizations and leaders, that we must form coalitions. What they do not tell us is that they seem willing to play down the most important objective of the movement – marriage – to avoid offending our coalition partners.

This latest bit of folly has come out of the recent 40th anniversary commemoration of the original 1963 black civil rights March on Washington. At that march, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the standard-bearer for the gay left, contributed money and personnel to the march. NGLTF's executive director, Matt Foreman, spoke to the rally on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

What did Foreman do with his unique opportunity to speak to our coalition allies? "On behalf of an incredibly diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community," he opened, "I thank you for inviting us... to walk with you on the road to jobs, peace and freedom." Foreman acknowledged "there are differences" between gay rights and black civil rights activists, but he did not say what they were. Instead, he passed over this unpleasantry by asserting that "what we agree on far outweighs our differences."

As examples of agreement, Foreman cited support for "full equality" for "everyone," opposition to "hate violence," and support for "forceful and affirmative action" to end "racial oppression." The first is so vague it says nothing. The second is an apparent reference to hate crimes legislation, which will accomplish nothing of substance for gays. And the third is not a gay issue at all. So the areas of agreement among the civil rights groups offer gays little beyond warm words.

Foreman held up the example of the political right, who "know how to set aside their differences." They have mastered the art of using wedge issues, he said, to "fracture us." He ended with a plea to "walk proudly together to defeat our common enemies."

There was not one word in Foreman's platitudinous speech about gay marriage. Yet, after the elimination of sodomy laws,

marriage is now the gay issue. He didn't need to harangue the crowd about it, but he needed at least to mention it.

It is obvious why Foreman left it out. Polls show that while Americans overall oppose same-sex marriage by perhaps 15-20

points, black Americans oppose it by a margin of 65-28 percent.

Even among black leaders there is opposition and equivocation on gay marriage. Martin Luther King III said recently that he wasn't sure how he felt about the issue because he knows gay leaders and "some of them have not formed an opinion on the issue of marriage." Oh yeah? Which ones?

Apparently, gay leaders on the left have given "our allies" a pass on this critical question. Is this the "wedge issue" that Foreman refuses to discuss with the progressive coalition because it might "fracture us"?

Even at a special mini-rally honoring Bayard Rustin, a gay man who organized the 1963 march, gay equality seemed an afterthought. Rustin's role in the 1963 march was downplayed because of the homophobia of both black civil rights leaders and their racist opponents.

Frank Kameny, an early gay rights pioneer who attended both the 1963 march and this year's commemoration, went to the mini-rally honoring Rustin. Kameny describes the people who marched to the event honoring Rustin as "a rattle-tongue gaggle of people advocating everything but gay issues – Cuba, [Howard] Dean, D.C. representation, Palestinians, Get Out of Iraq, and so on

– but nothing gay."

NGLTF is right that we need political allies. Gays make up perhaps 3 to 5 percent of the population. But even if every last progressive in Congress voted our way, we'd still lose. For that reason, gay Republicans have been emphasizing the necessity of working for change within the Republican Party. A coalition of gays and fair-minded Republicans, if it ever materialized, could secure substantive equality.

But suppose a gay Republican stood before a Republican convention and gave the following speech:

"On behalf of an incredibly diverse gay community, I thank you for letting us walk with you on the road to low taxes, less regulation, and a strong defense. Sure, we disagree about some things. But we will set aside our differences with you because what we agree on far outweighs our differences. We all favor equality and oppose violence and think abortion is terrible. We will not let the left drive a wedge between you and us by discussing our differences or by trying to persuade you on them. It is critical right now that we think only of what we agree about and walk together proudly to defeat our common enemies."

He would be booted out of the gay movement for that speech, and rightly so. He would be called a traitor to the gay rights cause. He would be excommunicated for presuming to speak "on behalf of the gay community" in such an obnoxious way. Yet with a few changes in wording (among other things, substitute "jobs, peace, and freedom" for "lower taxes, less regulation, and a strong defense"), that is the speech Foreman gave.

Sometimes friendship means challenging your friends on the things that matter most. Instead, like Bayard Rustin four decades ago, what matters most is getting pushed into the closet. ▼

Some of Dale Carpenter's past columns can be read at www.indegbayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Susan Leal (expect another supervisor to line up behind Leal soon as well). **Tony Ribera** has the official endorsement of the S.F. Republican Party, while front-runner Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** has the valued endorsements of both Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) and Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco).

By the way, you've got to hand it to Matt Gonzalez – any candidate whose literature boasts praise from both conservative Supervisor **Tony Hall** and Global Exchange's **Medea Benjamin** has got to have something going for him (I mean Tony "the Tiger" and Medea, how's that for diversity?).

Meanwhile, the **Kamala Harris** for district attorney campaign rolls along with the backing of Democratic San Francisco Assembyman **Mark Leno** and **Leland Yee**, Supes Aaron Peskin, Fiona Ma, and Sophie Maxwell, former D.A. **Arlo Smith**, the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democrats, the Deputy Sheriff's Association, and the S.F. Firefighters.

So Labor Day has come and gone, and I'm told that's when the political fun begins ... had enough already? ▼

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Little jo peep

by Jane Warner

Castro Theatre parking lot, August 26, 7 a.m.: Early in the morning, a police officer on routine patrol observed a man sitting in a black Ford Escort parked in the corner of the theater's parking lot. As he approached the partially opened driver's side window he could see the man's pants were down and the man was stroking his penis with his left hand. Next to the man were two bottles of "Astro Glide" lubricant and several used tissues. When the police officer identified himself, the man quickly covered his crotch with both hands. The officer ordered him to zip up his pants and get out of the car. When told he was under arrest, the man tried to bargain, "If you don't do this I promise I won't come back." The suspect, 49, was taken to Mission Station and cited for lewd conduct in a public place.

Basic instinct

18th and Collingwood, August 19, 3 a.m.: After the bars had closed, a man was approached by another man who asked him if he wanted to buy a \$2,400 Sony laptop computer for \$400. The man declined the offer but took his phone number, telling him, "I'll think about it." A short time later, the man decided to buy the computer, and he called the salesman, arranging to meet him in front of the Bagdad Cafe. The suspect

soon arrived in a small compact blue car with a broken front headlight, accompanied by another man. The two men showed the man three Sony computer boxes in the rear of the car. The man agreed to purchase the computer, but told the men to follow him to his apartment on Post Street, where he had the money. When they arrived, the man went up to his apartment and brought down \$400, giving the money to the suspects. In return, they gave him one of the boxes in the car and drove away eastbound on Post Street. Once inside his apartment, however, the man opened the computer box to find that it had been stuffed with newspaper, some gravel, and a broken ceramic plate. Suspect number one is described as African American, 35-37 years old, 5 feet 9 inches, with an average build, wearing a black jacket, dark slacks, and answering to the name "Troy." The second suspect is also African American, 25-30 years old, 5 feet 7 inches, 210 pounds, wearing a white and gray shirt with green pants and a white bandanna.

Ample warning

Farmer's Boy, 600 Castro, August 21, 5:17 p.m.: The owner of the small business was approached by two men who asked if they could purchase a large

seven foot potted plant in front of the store. The owner told the men the rare Brugmansia wasn't for sale and was for display only. An argument ensued, and one of the men asked, "Do you leave this plant out all night?" before getting back into the car and driving away. When the owner appeared for work the next morning, the \$1,250 plant was gone. A neighbor told the owner that at about 4:30 that morning, a maroon P.T. Cruiser pulled up and two men grabbed the plant, loading it

into the vehicle. The suspects are both described as white men in their 40s, heavyset, with facial hair. The car drove off with the rare plant southbound on Castro.

I scream

Bern and Jerry's, 451 Castro, August 24, 11 a.m.: When the manager arrived for work in the morning she discovered the office skylight broken and the iron security gate in front of the skylight pulled away from the ceiling. Dried blood was on various parts of the skylight, office desk, and stairway walls. The large safe had been pulled from its original floor position but had not been broken into. Police determined the would-be robber gained access to the roof through the many row houses on Castro Street. There are no known suspects. ▼



MPP opens West Coast office

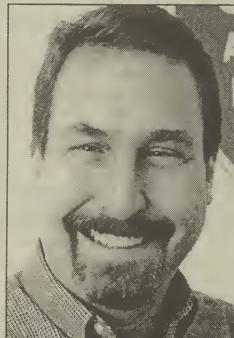
by Liz Highleyman

In late August, the Marijuana Policy Project announced that it had opened its first West Coast office in San Francisco, allowing the organization to be more closely involved with issues such as the recent federal crackdown on medical cannabis patients and providers.

The new office will be headed by MPP Director of Communications Bruce Mirken, who lived in San Francisco for many years and wrote widely for the LGBT press before relocating to MPP's Washington, D.C., headquarters in December 2001.

"It's exciting to be returning to California, which is still the front line of the battle to protect seriously ill medical marijuana patients," Mirken said. "Seven years after the passage of Proposition 215, Californians continue to lead the fight for sanity in our nation's marijuana laws. California has been ground zero for the federal government's war on patients and providers."

Over the past two years, federal agents have raided several medical marijuana dispensaries in the state and arrested numerous patients and providers — most notably Ed Rosenthal, who in June received a sentence of one day in jail for growing medical cannabis under the auspices of the city of



MPP's Bruce Mirken is back in SF

Oakland. The federal government is currently threatening physicians who provide patient recommendations for medical marijuana.

Locally, San Francisco is considering how to implement Proposition S, a winning local ballot initiative authored by former Supervisor and current Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) that directed the city to study ways to provide medical cannabis to patients.

Mirken told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his presence in San Francisco will allow him to take a more active role in opposing federal actions against medical marijuana patients and providers in

the Bay Area. "Sometimes it's just useful to be on the scene rather than on the phone from 3,000 miles away trying to figure out what happened," he said. "Aside from all that, it's good to be home."

With nearly 13,000 members nationwide, MPP is the largest marijuana policy reform organization in the U.S. The group focuses on removing criminal penalties for marijuana use, with a particular emphasis on medical cannabis. Along with Bay Area-based Americans for Safe Access, MPP has been instrumental in pushing federal legislation such as the pending Truth in Trials Act — which would allow a medical necessity in court — and Representative Barney Frank's (D-Massachusetts) effort to reclassify cannabis from a Schedule I to a Schedule II drug.

In related news, on August 2 the Council of Democratic Clubs in California adopted an ASA-backed resolution that asks elected officials to protect medical cannabis patients and providers, and calls for federal legislation that would uphold state medical cannabis laws. With the recent vote, the resolution became part of the platform of 125 state Democratic clubs. The local council has forwarded the resolution and asked the National Democratic Platform Committee to follow suit. ▼

Stephen Funk

◀ page 2

Funk's post-trial plans include continuing to work against the pro-military, anti-immigrant, and antigay policies of the Bush administration. In the meantime, ac-

tivists are encouraging all those opposed to the war to voice their support for Funk's right to exercise his conscientious objector option.

Groups and individuals participating in tonight's rally include Not in Our Name, Bay Area United Against War, API Coalition Against War, Out Against the War,

Community United Against Violence, Latinos Contra La Guerra, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, and the Reverend Penny Nixon of Metropolitan Community Church.

For more information, e-mail mecca44@aol.com or call (415) 575-5543. ▼

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talks to the B.A.R.****Controversial Prop 54 on recall ballot**

by Ed Walsh

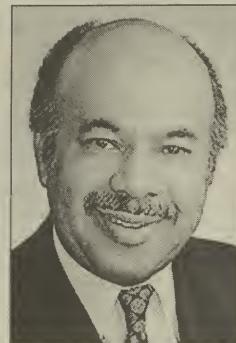
Ward Connerly, the man spearheading efforts to overturn affirmative action programs around the country and the author of Proposition 54, the Racial Privacy Initiative, is speaking back to charges from some in the LGBT community that those who support Proposition 54 are antigay and anti-minority.

"That statement is an absolute lie," Connerly told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an exclusive LGBT press interview on August 28. "As a [University of California] regent, as a public citizen, I did not support Proposition 22 [the anti-gay marriage initiative passed in 2000] and I'm more than offended that anyone would suggest that my involvement in the Racial Privacy Initiative is somehow in the same line as those involved in 22. It's an outright lie. It's a gross misrepresentation of the facts."

Proposition 54 would prohibit the state of California from collecting racial data about its citizens. Exceptions are made for medical research. Also, the Legislature has the option of mandating exceptions with a two-thirds vote and the governor's signature as long as the exception does not involve public education, public employment, or contract employment.

Connerly, one of the most prominent Republicans in the country, explained that his pro-gay views stem in part from his own experience as a black man who married a white woman long before it was as common as it is now.

"Our society right now, with respect to the love a person who is gay or lesbian gives to another person who is also gay or lesbian, is exactly where we were with interracial marriages back in the 1950s and 1960s, with the government trying to involve itself in that. Whether one believes or does not believe in civil unions or believes in the right of people to marry someone of the same sex, they ought to believe in the fundamental freedom of people from having the government involved in someone's pursuit of happiness. And it just astounds me that those of my allies who say that they are quote, conservative, would look the other way when the government determines who someone should marry. To me it's disingenuous to bring up 'What



UC Regent Ward Connerly

about incest?', 'What about all those other things? We're talking about consenting adults.'

But Connerly stopped just short of endorsing gay marriage.

"It's really a matter of terminology," he explained. "If you are saying marriage, I think by definition, marriage is probably restricted to a man and a woman. Should people who are gay have the ability to enter into relationships and call them civil unions or whatever you want? Absolutely."

Fundamentally I don't think the government should be involved in the institution of marriage. It is a civil relationship between two people who are basically entering a contract and the government should not be involved in that."

Connerly explained that he put domestic partner rights "on the agenda" in 1998 when, as a U.C. regent, he helped pass a proposal granting medical benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of university employees. That controversial measure just squeaked by with a 13-12 vote.

"I will tell you very candidly, it would never have even been on the agenda had I not orchestrated with the faculty representative, Duncan Mellichamp, to force the issue on the agenda and when I did, and when I voted as I did, man oh man, the outcry was just unreal from those who would profess to be my allies: 'How can you do this? How can you engage in promoting this decadence, this intrusion in our lives, promoting the homosexual agenda? You betrayed us!'"

Connerly explained that his involvement in the promotion of Proposition 54, which will be part of the recall ballot on October 7, was a natural outgrowth of his

philosophy of seeing people as individuals and not as members of a particular race or sexual orientation group. Connerly sees the passage of Proposition 54 as a natural progression from Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action initiative passed in 1996. Like Proposition 54, Connerly headed up the pro-209 effort and it made him the personification of the anti-affirmative action movement nationwide.

"I concluded that it's not really the issue of race preferences, it's the basic problem of the government making distinctions between its citizens on those characteristics we ascribe to race," he explained.

Connerly noted that in debates he has been able to temporarily silence his opponents when he asks them to define race.

"When I pose the question: 'You say you want data. You say that the data is important and that we classify people. Now classify them. Tell me. What is a black person? What is white?' And it's at that point that you get this long pause."

Health concerns

The issue Proposition 54's opponents bring up most often is health. Many have called it a threat to public health because, they claim, it would hamper the state government's ability to collect data on health matters or particular diseases such as sickle cell anemia, which is closely associated with race.

"It's bad medicine for California," Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) told the B.A.R. "It's very important that we defeat it."

"It's a phony issue," counted Connerly. "The initiative contains a specific exemption for medical patients and medical research subjects. We had some of the best lawyers in the country drafting this language. And I said, 'Give me the language that clearly exempts everything relating to medical treatment and health care.'

"The legislative analyst accepts our interpretation, but if they don't accept that, there is a process in the initiative for the Legislature, with a two-thirds vote, with the governor signing it, to find a compelling need and then to exempt the initiative from anything that is not public education, public contracting, or public employment."

Connerly explained that Proposition 54's opponents have

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San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council



The community planning group that oversees the prioritization and allocation of Ryan White CARE Act Title I and II funds (used to provide services for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties) invites and encourages members of the public to attend their meetings and provide public comment.

The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

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Jim Hedges
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Falcon names new management team; readies film for release

by Cynthia Laird

Sex sells. And one gay business that does it better than most is the Falcon Family of Companies or Falcon Studios, as it's known to its many customers. The company has been the leader in gay adult entertainment for more than 30 years.

Falcon, based in San Francisco, announced September 2 the promotion of Terry Mahaffey to president and chief creative officer, and the appointment of Todd Montgomery as vice president as chief operating officer. During a recent interview at their San Francisco offices, both men laid out plans for the future, and eagerly promoted *Drenched*, Falcon Studios' newest film set to be released later this month.

"Falcon is synonymous with anything that's attractive—the storyline and production value," Mahaffey said, explaining the difference between the three most well-known brands of the Falcon Family of Companies.

In addition to the signature Falcon brand, the Jocks brand is the more collegiate type, while the Mustang brand is the more mature line, sometimes incorporating leather themes, Mahaffey said.

"Falcon is the gold standard by which all gay adult content is judged," Montgomery added. "We're poised for tremendous growth as we strengthen our relationship with existing customers and introduce the brand to a younger audience."

Mahaffey noted that even during the economic downturn, Falcon wasn't adversely affected. He attributes that to Falcon's loyal customer base, which includes Web subscribers and mail order customers.

"We're very comfortable," Mahaffey said, although he declined to reveal specifics about Falcon's profits or salaries. ConWest Resources is the holding company for Falcon, a private company.

"What I will say is that we gave over half a million dollars to charity this past fiscal year," Mahaffey said.

"The fundamentals of the company are rock solid," added Montgomery. "We sympathize with our customers who have been through tough times, but, fortunately, we haven't been impacted by that."

Falcon was started by the late Chuck Holmes in 1971. When Holmes died of AIDS-related complications in 2000 at the age of 55, his company was the largest gay-owned producer of erotic films in the world. One of the things that makes Falcon unique is that it's the only porn company that functions as a philanthropic organization, as the *Bay Area Reporter*'s John F. Kart wrote in April 2001. The Chuck Holmes Foundation was established to contribute to causes that Holmes believed in, and before his death Holmes was active in the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and other gay rights organizations.

The LGBT Community Center in San Francisco is named after Holmes; the estate made a \$1 mil-



Rick Gerhardt

Falcon President Terry Mahaffey, left, and COO Todd Montgomery

lion pledge to the center.

"We just gave \$25,000 to Thom Lynch," Mahaffey said, referring to the center's new executive director. The money was a payment on the donation. Mahaffey said he's in the process of getting on a regular payment schedule to meet the foundation's pledge obligation to the community center.

"They will be the recipient of future money," Mahaffey said.

"They're being incredibly supportive," Lynch said.

"The great thing about working here is that the majority of profits go back to the community," Montgomery added.

Falcon also contributes to various HIV charities, such as the recent Real Bad Party, and often provides items for silent auctions at various AIDS fundraisers.

The company is excited about the future.

"It's good, clean, dirty fun," Montgomery said of the movies Falcon produces.

Both Montgomery and Mahaffey emphasized that all Falcon brand films "promote safe sex, responsible sex."

Prior to joining Falcon, Montgomery founded Montgomery Consulting Partners, a provider of business and strategic planning services for such clients as high tech service provider WebEx Communications, and software vendor Newscale Technologies. He is a 15-year veteran of the healthcare and hi-tech industries.

Mahaffey, a financial executive, is a 25-year industry veteran and protégé of Holmes. Since joining Falcon in 1996, he has served as controller, vice president of finance, and most recently, vice president and chief financial officer. Throughout his tenure, Mahaffey has played a prominent role in implementing Holmes's artistic vision.

New movie

Drenched, which stars Falcon Lifetime Exclusive Matthew Rush, and is directed by Chi Chi LaRue, will be released later this month; customers can pre-order on the Web site. The film, which also stars Falcon Exclusives Josh Weston, Brad Patton, Tommy Brandt, Andrew Phillips, Tyler Gunn, and Bobby Williams, was shot on location in Hawaii. The average bud-

get for a Falcon film is \$88,000, Mahaffey said, although Falcon brand films, such as *Drenched*, sometimes exceed \$100,000.

"It seems like we're always over budget," Mahaffey laughed.

The movie was shot over two and a half weeks and will be released in two parts, each containing two DVDs—one with the film and another one with extras. It's the most elaborate Falcon movie yet because of the DVD extras, which include a director's commentary and outtakes. The retail price for each part will be \$79.50, though orders for Web subscribers and mail order customers are priced lower.

"Director Max Phillips is working on the DVD extras now," Mahaffey said. "They're funny and there's a lot of them."

In terms of the models who work for Falcon, Mahaffey said the company is competitive, and pays their exclusives "a premium amount" in order to retain exclusive rights.

"They have the ability to use that exclusiveness for public appearances," he said. "We take pride in grooming our models a certain way, but there's no prerequisite to being in our stable. There's not a formula you can pinpoint."

And Falcon is always looking for new talent.

"Everyone in this industry has a life span of three to four years," Montgomery said.

"We look for the boy next door. Someone who's clean cut and attractive, yet approachable and virile."

Falcon makes about 20 films a year, a figure that includes all studio brands.

"We don't like to go over that, it compromises our time," Mahaffey said.

Post-production work is done at the San Francisco office, which also houses the art department, finance operations, online services, and customer service representatives.

Falcon has branched off into a successful Internet presence as well. Subscribers pay a \$29.50 monthly fee, which entitles them to Web exclusives and discounts on movies. Falcon also will soon launch pay-per-view streaming video on its Web site, something

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Amnesty International pushing for gay rights in the Philippines

by Matthew S. Bajko

As lawmakers in the Philippines debate the passage of a gay rights bill, two gay rights activists from Manila visited California last month to drum up political and financial support from the state's gay Asian and Pacific Islander population.

After attending her organization's international meeting in Mexico, Jessica Umanos Soto, the executive director of Amnesty International Philippines, traveled to San Francisco and Los Angeles to meet with local API leaders and seek support for the gay rights bill.

Soto, who took over the leadership of AI Philippines six years ago, has pushed her agency to become more active in her country's gay rights struggle. It has been no easy task in the predominantly Catholic country.

"We have to live what we preach. We are actively campaigning on gay rights issues as human rights issues," said Soto, who met with members of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance over dinner in the Castro on Tuesday, August 26. "Campaigning for gay issues opens an avenue for our members to change their attitudes about gays and lesbians. It also opened for us for membership because gays and lesbians saw the organization as a place that could be their home."



The GAPPA board meets with Amnesty International Philippines staff and others. Standing from left: Vincent Baduel, GAPPA; Daniel Bao, GAPPA; Daniel Lee, GLHRC; Dax De Castro, AIP; Richard Lung, GAPPA; and Roberto Bernardo, GAPPA. Seated from left: Gemma Nemenzo and Mona Lisa Yuchengco, of Filipinas magazine; and Jessica Soto, director of AIP.

Soto, who is married and has four children, has helped forge strong ties with numerous Philippines-based gay groups and hired Dax De Castro, 24 and openly gay, as AI Philippines' coordinator for LGBT groups. Her agency also helps to organize Manila's gay Pride, and this November, the agency is co-hosting the International Lesbian and Gay Association conference in Manila.

The top priority for Manila's gay rights activists is passage of H.B. 2784, commonly called the

anti-discrimination bill. It seeks to criminalize discriminatory practices and policies against Filipino homosexuals. The Committee on Human Rights of the House of Representatives "approved in principle" what could be the first legislative measure on LGBT human rights in the country, and it now awaits passage by the full Congress.

"It is the first bill to talk about LGBT people. We are optimistic. We can only be optimistic," said Soto.

If approved, the law would ban

such discriminatory practices as policies of some schools that prohibit the admission of gay applicants and the use of homosexuality as a cause or reason for the dismissal of lesbian and gay employees. It also intends to punish medical institutions and commercial establishments that refuse or discriminate against Filipino homosexuals.

The anti-discrimination bill is authored by Akbayan Representative Loretta Ann Rosales and was formulated after a series of innovative dialogues with LAGABLAB, or the Lesbian and Gay Legislative Advocacy Network. The acronym is a Philippine word which means flame, noted De Castro.

"The anti-discrimination bill has made history. It is the first LGBT bill to make it this far in

Philippines," said De Castro. "It is the first to receive significant support from legislators."

However, Soto said the bill right now is not a priority for the Congress and the Senate. She said other bills dealing with anti-terrorism anti-trafficking are getting more attention from legislators.

"It is very challenging for us to get concrete support," said Soto. "If we had letters from the LGBT community in San Francisco it would add more pressure for legislators to pass the bill."

Letters supporting passage of the bill can be sent to AI Philippines, 17 B Kasing-Kasing St. Cor 8th and Kamias, Quezon City, 1101, The Philippines. Letters can also be e-mailed to jusot-AIP@meridiantelekoms.net. ▼

Connolly

◀ page 4

nominees for the position of chief probation officer. Connolly, along with three other commissioners, had maintained he never used such language against Ricci, who is a Filipina American.

"I am glad the independent investigation revealed what I always have known," Connolly told the Bay Area Reporter.

The infighting among commissioners landed on the front pages of the South San Francisco-based Philippine News. The paper ran an editorial that used antigay language to attack Connolly's character.

The editorial, written by managing editor Beting Laygo Dolor, referred to Connolly as a "closet homosexual, cross dresser, and racist lunatic."

After the B.A.R. inquired about the editorial, the paper said it would apologize for its comments

and did not mean to offend the gay community. Connolly has demanded the paper run a retraction.

In a front page story titled "Connolly seeks apology from Philippine News" on August 13, the paper defended the editorial and said it would not run a retraction.

"A re-reading of the editorial, however, indicates that the words in question did not directly or indirectly refer to Connolly. It instead sought to find out more about the commissioner," wrote Dolor.

Dolor wrote that the newspaper refuses to apologize for the editorial in question, but that it had "offered an apology to the gay community for any misunderstanding over the editorial."

Connolly said this week he still wants a retraction.

"I want a retraction and they refuse to give it to me," he said. "As far as I am concerned the Philippine News has never fairly reported this dispute."

Dolor could not be reached for comment. ▼

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Ward Connerly

◀ page 12

exaggerated the importance of race and health.

"I've seen some studies recently where there are some real dangers to make determinations about a person's health or medical circumstances based on race. That is, it is far more important to be looking at genetics," he said, adding that an individual's family history of disease is what's of paramount interest to doctors.

"I honestly believe it's not about health. Those people who are fighting this initiative are the civil rights advocates who really want to keep racial consciousness high on the radar screen because that's how you get members. There are those in the educational cartel. And the way you get more money from the Legislature is to talk about the fact that our poor underrepresented minorities are falling behind. ... The only way the opposition can defeat this initiative is to find some issue that will grab the public's attention and frighten people so they say, 'Oh God, I can't vote for that!'"

Connerly also noted that despite concerns raised from many in the health field, Proposition 54 allows for the collection of racial data when it is a condition of applying for a grant from the federal government.

Connerly believes the media has been very unfair to Proposition 54 because it let the claims of those who use scare tactics go unchallenged.

"The media has a hard time thinking about things in different ways. I would concede that Proposition 54 is asking us as a society

to think about race in a different way. It is causing us to reexamine not only how we deal with race in the public domain but to question what is it. 'What is a black person?' It's hard for the media to get comfortable with that paradigm. The media lives on data. You look at most of the stories, and you take away the data and the story begins to fall apart. So the media is part of that coalition that opposes the initiative."

Although some say that racial data is necessary to fight discrimination, Connerly counters that the data by itself can't prove discrimination. He explained that some groups culturally drifted to certain professions or interests. As an example, Connerly explained his experience growing up in a poor black neighborhood in Sacramento and playing a lot of basketball because that was part of the culture among his peers. He said that cultural difference explains why blacks overall have surpassed whites in basketball. He also noted that Asian families culturally have tended to emphasize academic matters.

"No one who is familiar with California would say that black people do not have access to education. Colleges are bending over backwards to get them in. Even to the extent of breaking the law. But for some reason [academic achievement] does not rise to the level of importance as it does among people who are Chinese or Japanese," he said.

Connerly explained that race is getting to be more and more a hazy issue in California where more people are born now to mixed race parents than to two black parents.

"At the University of California the most rapid growing segment

of our student population consists of those who decline to state. And many of those are students who don't neatly fit into one box or the other. And then you have this rapidly growing population of those we consider in California to be Latinos and in other states to be Hispanics, but 47 percent of them check white. So here you have a rapidly growing demographic group that really doesn't fit into any racial group. They can be of American Indian ancestry, they can be white, they can be black. The system is literally crushing under its own weight."

Connerly explained that more and more people have a visceral reaction against checking boxes that ask for race.

"We all know deep down that we're all blended in some way. And in our country, the history of race makes us all a little suspect, when somebody says, 'What is your race?'

"When all of this is said and done, we have a very fundamental question to ask. The other side often says, 'The colorblind ideal is a great one but we're just not there yet.' Well, if you believe it's a great one, then when do we begin? Does every ounce of discrimination have to be purged from our society, every ounce? So if not now, when?

"The initiative is a very moderate one. ... There are many, so many exemptions that many of my proponents are saying, 'What is it going to do?'

LGBT opposition

Geoff Kors, the executive director of Equality California, a statewide LGBT rights organization, told the B.A.R. that although he appreciates Connerly's support of gay rights, it's important, he said, for the LGBT community to

stand up with ethnic minorities to oppose Proposition 54.

"These proposition measures, Proposition 187 [designed to cut off benefits to illegal immigrants], Proposition 22, Proposition 54, are targeted to pick off communities one at a time," Kors said. "So by working together, we can hopefully stop that trend because we can't win without the support of other communities so we have to be there for them."

Leno echoed Kors's call for solidarity with ethnic minorities.

"If we let the radical right pass Proposition 54, completely expect to see another proposition that would also extend the exclusion of data collecting to sexual orientation and gender identity," Leno said. "Ward Connerly lives in a dream world and we have to defeat Proposition 54 to ensure that his dream world doesn't become our living nightmare. Some extremists burn books. Other extremists prevent those books from being written, that's what we're dealing with in Proposition 54." ▼

Gay lawyer

◀ page 5

The California Young Lawyers Association is a bit less modest when describing his achievements.

"Eric recognized a means of providing empowerment to the disadvantaged through the legal profession. In taking on toxic mold cases, he has combined his passion for the sciences with his compassion for low-income families who face legal injustices. This holistic combination has led to a prospering legal practice that provides full legal access to an underserved community," the organization stated in its announcement about the award.

CYLA is a part of the state bar association, and lawyers under the age of 36 are automatically enrolled as members. CYLA's Berman Award is named for an attorney by that name who provided a substantial amount of pro bono legal assistance to clients in need. Berman was killed in the 101 California Street shootings in 1993.

This year's Berman Award will be presented by California Supreme Court Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar.

Lifschitz said the award and the evening will be "very exciting." ▼

More information on Lifschitz's practice can be found at www.sflagala.com.

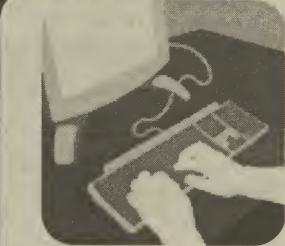
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Falcon Studios

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Mahaffey said younger customers seem to want.

"There is a shift," Mahaffey said, explaining that some customers are open to viewing content online.

Falcon currently offers both DVD and VHS formats, and Mahaffey said DVD is rapidly becoming the product of choice.

"A year ago, it was 60 percent VHS and 40 percent DVD sales," he said. "Now it's shifting, and we're at about 55 percent DVD and 45 percent video."

Staying abreast of changes in the industry is one of the biggest

jobs, Mahaffey said, and Falcon is up to that challenge.

"The Internet opened horizons for everyone," he said, in explaining Falcon's upcoming redesigned Web page and features. "Our content is really impulsive, and when you log on, it's right there."

Yet another Web exclusive is Falcon TV, a feature that is broadcast live monthly and is available to "red level" members. During the Webcasts, Mahaffey will take questions from viewers and pose them to a Falcon star. The show is done from the San Francisco office, and is growing in popularity. ▼

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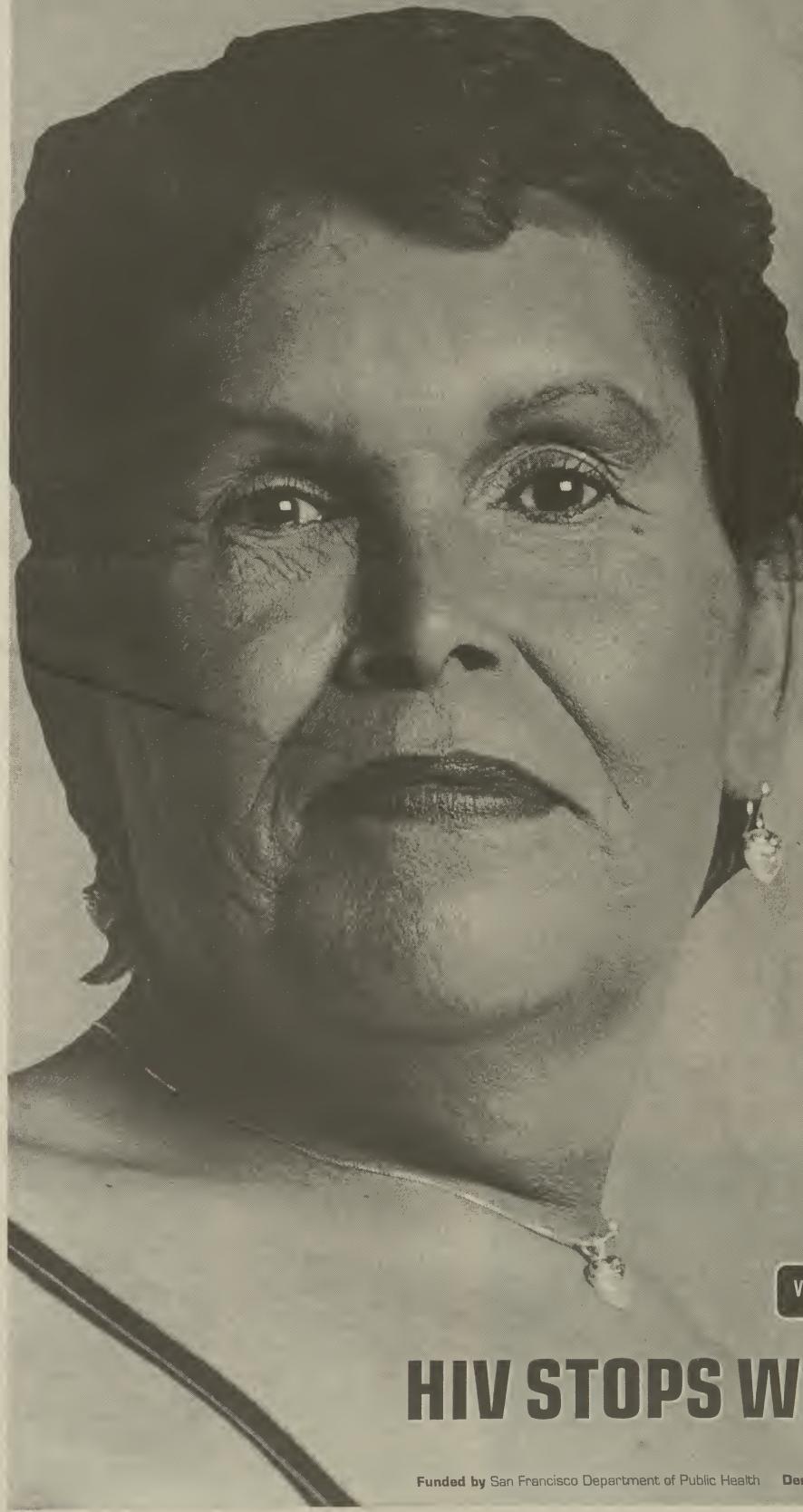
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A few things to know about speed

by Aaron J. Cohen

There's been a lot of attention in the last few months addressing the many dangers of methamphetamine use and its contribution to the significant increase in new cases of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, particularly gonorrhea and syphilis. In writing a regular health column, it is not in my interest, nor is it in yours, to guilt or shame people into giving up unsafe practices. As a health educator, I believe it is my job to provide people with the information they need to make informed decisions that hopefully result in improved health or serve to diminish potential harm. So this particular column is all about facts; facts about methamphetamine. What you do with them is your decision. It's all about weighing your priorities. And in my opinion, with a very few exceptions, life is what you

make of it.

Whatever you may believe, facts are in:

- One quarter of gay/bisexual men who tested positive for syphilis reported recent speed use.

- Gay/bisexual men with rectal gonorrhea were three times (that's 300 percent) more likely to have recently used speed.

- Thirty-nine percent of non-speed using gay men having receptive anal intercourse say they always use a condom, compared to 24 percent of gay men who use speed.

Those smart enough to use a condom while using speed aren't completely out of hot water. Condoms are nearly twice as likely to break when sex and speed are involved. This is likely due to the fact that one of speed's most attractive features is its ability to allow you to have longer and more intense sex than without it.

In this culture of youth and vanity, we are constantly bom-

barded with media that directly associates our self-worth with how good we look. Arguably, gay men, more than any other group, face the greatest amount of this pressure. Toward that end, we work out constantly, eliminate any extra dietary fat, eat overpriced organic produce, and shun all sorts of preservatives and additives. Ironically, many of us (at least 40 percent of gay men in San Francisco), think nothing of inhaling or injecting hydrochloric and battery acids, drain cleaner, lye, and antifreeze into our bodies. As many of you may already know, these are the compounds commonly used to make methamphetamine.

With regard to the connection between speed and STDs, here is some data: It is now estimated that gay men in California who use speed are twice as likely to be positive than gay men who don't use it. For those who are already positive the risks are just as clear. In those bodies that are in need of extra protection and care, the use of speed only worsens an already compromised immune system. The result is an increase in viral load and decrease in T-cells.

Speed and HIV

Speed can have indirect, but just as serious, effects on your HIV. In the euphoria and resulting crash associated with speed use, it's not only easy to forget to take your HIV medications, it's predictable. The absolute truth is that if you're on HIV medications you need to be at least 95 percent adherent in order to prevent developing genetic mutations in the HIV that allow it to become resistant to the medications. Even more serious is the fact that some types of mutations can rule out an entire class of drugs, possibly leaving you with very few treatment options. The bottom line is this, if you're not gonna take your meds 95 percent of the time, you're doing more harm to your body than if you didn't take them at all.

On a related note, if you use speed and take HIV medications, there are a few things you should be aware of. Liver function can be impaired by HIV, and for those with hepatitis B or C infection this is even more of a problem. The liver serves as a detoxifier and when it is suffering, it can be difficult for it to break down medications or toxins, such as speed. As a result, drugs such as speed remain in the body longer, and at higher concentrations than they would in people without these conditions. You may be taking more of a drug than your body can handle without even realizing it.

HIV medications, particularly protease inhibitors, have a similar effect. Two protease inhibitors, Norvir (ritonavir) and Saquinavir (fortovase and invirase), are especially known to slow the breakdown of many drugs. This is why they are often used in conjunction with other HIV medications, to boost their effectiveness. These

drugs can also boost the amount of speed in your blood by two to three times the amount that would be present if you were not taking these medications. Therefore, if you take protease inhibitors, you might want to think about eliminating, or at

least minimizing your use of speed. At the very least, it's clearly a good idea to use less of it at any given time.

Many people already know that it can cause a severe, possibly lethal drop in blood pressure to mix poppers with Viagra. Not many people know that Norvir (ritonavir) and drugs that contain it, such as Kaletra, also have interactions with Viagra. It's very common to use Viagra in addition to speed when having sex. Viagra counteracts the effect that speed has in making erections more difficult. If you take Norvir, and are using speed and Viagra, be sure to use a 25 mg dose (not the big 100 mg pill – which you can split in half and half again) and never take more than one dose in 48 hours.

Speed and the brain

Now a few words on speed and the brain. Most of us know the short-term effects of speed, the reasons why people take it in the first place. These include a euphoric sense of well-being as well as a reduced appetite, dehydration, and increased body temperature. Not everyone is as familiar with speed's long-term effects. These include addiction, stroke, heart beat irregularities, violent behavior, anxiety, confusion, and honest to goodness paranoia. Single doses of methamphetamine have been known to cause damage to nerve terminals and long-term use can cause damage to dopamine receptors.

For those with a more limited knowledge of anatomy, the brain is composed of billions of cells called neurons (nerve cells). These carry the electrical signals through a variety of different chemicals (called neurotransmitters) that make up our voluntary and involuntary thoughts. Speed has the effect it does because it chemically resembles two of these neurotransmitters: dopamine and norepinephrine, and forces the neurons to release these neurotransmitters in extra large amounts. Speed also interferes with the process in which they are naturally broken down.

Short-term use of speed results in a temporary reduction in the availability of these neurotransmitters, commonly known as "crashing." This is what causes the depression that is so common following speed use. In my personal experience, at least half the gay men I know are taking anti-depressant medications. These medications work to regulate and correct shortages of neurotransmitters. If you're taking anti-depressants and use speed, you're pretty much wasting your time. You can't expect your medications to help when you keep un-

dermining the way that they work.

Long-term use of speed can result in serious damage to neurons, impairing their ability to transport dopamine. The result is a condition very much like Parkinson's disease, which is also caused by a lack of dopamine. For those unfamiliar with Parkinson's, some of the symptoms include diminished cognitive function (reduced ability to think) and impaired motor functioning (inability to move properly).

There's some good news. Recent research has shown that methamphetamine users who were able to stay off the drug for at least nine months, showed significant improvement in their ability to produce dopamine, probably because these neurons had not yet been damaged beyond recovery. The bad news is that in this same study, though dopamine function improved, there wasn't really much of an improvement in cognitive function.

So that's the story on methamphetamine, or at least as much information as I can provide you with here. If you doubt in any way that speed has become a serious problem, consider the fact that there is at least a month's wait for anyone trying to get into a meth rehab program in San Francisco. It is my (educated) opinion that methamphetamine, dose for dose, is the most physically harmful drug out there. Even heroin, with its incredible potential for addiction and great risk of overdose, does far less direct damage to the body. The answer of course, is not to switch to using heroin, but to give some thought to what speed is actually doing to your mind and body. The confidence and sexual intensity that come with using speed are powerful lures for many gay men. Unfortunately, people don't usually stop using a drug they really like unless they can see that their life is better in some way(s) without it. Whether you choose to quit, or just use speed more intelligently, is ultimately your decision alone. ▼



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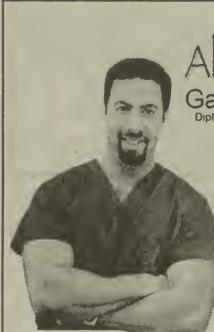
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Aaron J. Cohen, is a certified health education specialist, with a master's degree in public health in community health education. He is also an independent health counselor, specializing in HIV and hepatitis. The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for medical advice. For more information please go to www.BestHealthAdvocate.com.

Local resources

Several agencies provide counseling and substance abuse treatment for gay and bisexual men. They include:

New Leaf: Services for Our Community. There may be a waiting list, but New Leaf does have some drop-in programs that can help. Call (415) 626-7000, ext. 220.

The Stonewall Project is a harm reduction program for gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning men. Call (415) 502-1999 or visit www.tweaker.org for information.

Narcotics Anonymous has 12-step programs around the Bay Area. Visit www.na.org to find a nearby meeting.

Gay candidates

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In fact, Palmieri has been using his time in the media spotlight to tell voters to vote "no" on the recall and "yes" for Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante.

"Everyone should vote no on the recall and after that they should not vote for me but for the strongest Democratic candidate who is for gay rights, a woman's right to choose, and hate crimes legislation, gun control, and who opposes a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. The closest one at the present time appears to be" Bustamante, Palmieri said.

Gay GOPer

Then there is James Vandeventer Jr., a 40-year-old openly gay

car salesman from Los Angeles, who is seriously campaigning for the job. As a Republican.

"I came from Oklahoma. I moved here in 1995 and hadn't accepted being gay. Everyone in Oklahoma is just a Republican. I was raised in a staunch conservative environment. I never changed my party affiliation," said Vandeventer, who swears he is 90 percent Democratic and only 10 percent Republican.

Like Palmieri, Vandeventer doesn't agree that Davis should be recalled and likens the election to a coup d'état by Republicans.

"I just have a fear that we have the Bush administration that is trying to, how can you put it nicely ... the Bush administration is trying to hijack the state of California for next year's presidential race," he said. "They can deny it all they want, but we are not stupid

people."

However, if voters want to recall the governor, then Vandeventer said they should elect him as their new leader.

"I don't agree with the way the recall came about two months after Gray Davis was elected. On the other hand, it is what the people want. I am respecting that," he said. "The politicians have forgotten how we elect them. It is time to rattle their cages and make them understand we feed their families. It is time to make them understand they need to make us number one again."

Vandeventer put up \$100,000 of his own money toward the race and launched his own Web site, votevandeventer.com, though his campaign's phone number was incorrectly listed on the site until last week when a reporter pointed out the discrepancy.

"This race is driving me crazy," he said. "We are taking it day by day, stage by stage, to see where the campaign is going to go."

According to his campaign site, Vandeventer is pro-choice, pro-guns, pro-environment, supportive of same-sex unions, and against pork-barrel spending on special interests. He also states, "We should do everything in our power to stop illegal immigration and secure our borders. However, to those hardworking people who have been here five years or more, who may even have children born in this country, we should grant them amnesty and allow them to become a legitimate part of this society."

Vandeventer and his domestic partner of seven years, James Welch, who dubbed their relationship "The Jim and James Show," came to the Bay Area last Saturday to meet with nearly 40 other second-tier candidates on the ballot. The meeting took place aboard the USS Hornet in Alameda.

Prior to that, on Friday, Vandeventer saw his chiropractor because he had thrown his back out recently. He said he had taken a misstep and that it was not related to the stress of the campaign.

Despite his back pain, Vandeventer was in good spirits, boasting about his placement in a GOP straw poll taken online.

"We came in third, behind [state Senator Tom] McClintock and [Arnold] Schwarzenegger," he said.

Granted he only garnered 42

votes compared to McClintock's 2,686 and Schwarzenegger's 233. But the practically unknown Vandeventer did top Bill Simon, who received 29 votes but dropped out of the recall race last month, and Peter Ueberroth, a businessman and chairman of the 1984 L.A. Olympics, who registered 19 votes in the poll.

His showing in the straw poll only bolstered Vandeventer's resolve to stay in the race. When asked if he believes he has a shot at winning, he said "definitely, 100 percent."

He criticized Palmieri for not being a serious candidate in the race.

"If you didn't get into the race to run you shouldn't run," he said.

Palmieri in turn has mocked Vandeventer for his backtracking on being a Republican.

"He is a gay Republican, which is an oxymoron. He has some lame excuse that since he is a registered Republican that is why he is running as a Republican. I think his candidacy is a joke," said Palmieri. "He also wants people to vote for him, which is a joke."

Calling the entire recall process absurd, Palmieri said he fears the other candidates are stealing votes away from the defeat of the recall and, ultimately, the election of a strong liberal Democratic candidate.

"For that they should be ashamed of themselves and are only doing it for self-aggrandizement," he said. "For those people who think they can win, they are bordering on the psychotic." ▼

Trizivir

◀ page 1

our individual physicians," even though AHF's letter to the FDA claims that the drug is unsafe.

Not only does AHF stock the drug in its pharmacies, according to Glaxo's numbers, AHF physicians prescribe Trizivir at rates that are higher than the national average.

Weinstein said they placed the ads in Washington, and Los Angeles because "people who are getting Trizivir are not being properly notified what the concerns are. ... People who go to doctors who don't see many AIDS patients are not going to be up on these things."

He conceded, however, that most people who read the ads in gay papers in those two cities probably do go to AIDS specialists.

"The other reason why we're running the ad is to put additional pressure on the FDA to move on this as quickly as possible." Weinstein argued that with the large arsenal of approved HIV medications available for combinations, "These fixed dose combinations really ought to be held to a higher standard."

"I have a problem with Glaxo," Weinstein said. "I think that they are a rogue company. I think that they committed the original sin in AIDS drug development by pirating AZT from the NIH [a court decided that was not the case] and then charging 32 times the cost of production. I think that they are responsible for millions of lives being lost the world over by pricing at those levels."

"The bottom line is that Glaxo dominates the market and they never discovered anything. And

they continue to peddle stuff that is harmful." AHF has filed lawsuits and taken other action directed against GSK over the last few years.

"We believe that AHF is acting very irresponsibly by petitioning the FDA to take Trizivir off the market," said GSK spokeswoman Nancy Pekarek. "Essentially this would deny patients and physicians a very important tool in the fight against AIDS."

"The biggest concern that we have is that patients who are on Trizivir and are being very well managed will be misled by what are inflammatory comments by AHF and will stop treatment," she said.

"The call to remove Trizivir from the market is not supported by the data," said Gregg Gonzales, policy director with the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City.

There is a great difference between the NIH saying that one drug regimen is less effective than another, and AHF's charge that the drug is "unsafe." And by the time it ran the ad, AHF had tempered its language to say, "Trizivir didn't protect patients as well as some other combinations of medicines."

"It's irresponsible and dangerous to put out medical advice in press releases and sensational ad campaigns," added Bob Huff, a New York City activist who edits the GMHC health publications. "How might people who are doing well on Trizivir react when they see this ad? Stop taking their meds? Panic?"

There are anecdotal reports that some patients have reacted that way after seeing the news release that AHF put out when it asked the FDA to withdraw Trizivir. It was distributed by some

AIDS listservs on the Internet.

Dr. Princy Kumar, an AIDS physician at Georgetown University, acknowledged that Trizivir "may not be the gold standard" for treating HIV, but she called it "a valuable drug for a lot of my patients" because of issues of safety, compliance, side effects, drug interactions, and co-payments.

"I have problems with every drug," she said, "that's why it is necessary to have a variety of options available so that the doctor and patient can find the regimen that works best for each individual. Kumar called the ad "confusing and disturbing" because it threatens to disrupt that interaction.

Dr. Douglas Ward, a physician in Washington, D.C., with a large HIV practice, called the ad "sensationalism which is counterproductive."

"I've never been a big fan of a triple nuc regimen. I never start a naive patient on one, though I do have some patients that I have 'simplified' to a triple nuc regimen," he said. "There is a place for Trizivir in certain patient populations, and the success rate in other trials is not all that bad."

"To take out an ad calling for the withdrawal of Trizivir is extreme," said Ward. "I don't see them trying to ban Hivid or even nelfinavir, which in an intent-to-treat analysis would probably come out worse than Trizivir."

Ken Haller, president of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, questioned the way that GSK is marketing Trizivir, and also the "inflammatory" character of the AHF ad. "If they feel that Glaxo's ads are misleading, then perhaps they should look at their own ads, and try to raise the level of discourse a bit." ▼

Schwarzenegger

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Kors, told the Bay Area Reporter, adding that he hoped Schwarzenegger would comment on that incident to clear up any concerns that the act wasn't completely consensual.

Jeff Bissiri, director of the state's Log Cabin Republicans, said he was not necessarily offended by the actor's remarks.

"I think it is unfortunate the F-word was used," said Bissiri. "But if you look at what he was saying, it is very positive at a time when people weren't so positive about gays. I am heartened by what he was really saying."

The Log Cabin members will be meeting in two weeks to decide on an endorsement in the race. Whether they endorse Schwarzenegger remains to be seen, but the

group is certain not to come out for a Democrat. Under its bylaws the club can only endorse Republicans.

James Vandeventer Jr., a gay man running to replace Lott as a Republican, said he was "not really offended" by the comments.

"I came from a very conservative state and lived with that verbiage for many years," said Vandeventer, who grew up in Oklahoma. "I'm not condoning what he said but obviously times have changed. I don't think you would catch Arnold saying that today. You are grasping at straws if you want to bellyache about something Arnold said 20 years ago because he used the term 'fag.'"

However, Ronald Jason Palmieri, a gay Democrat also on the recall ballot, took a more critical stance against Schwarzenegger's comments.

"Trent Lott lost his power position in the Senate for saying things

a lot less offensive," said Palmieri, referring to Lott stepping down as Senate majority leader earlier this year after praising the late senator Strom Thurmond who opposed racial integration when he ran for president decades ago. "If the quotation had been a racial slur rather than a slur against gay people his candidacy would be over."

Kors and Leno said Schwarzenegger's stand on LGBT issues is what's most important now. On Wednesday, August 27, Schwarzenegger came out against gay marriage although he said he supports domestic partnerships.

Governor Gray Davis, the focus of the recall campaign, is also opposed to gay marriage. Last month, Davis, who has supported domestic partnerships, announced that he would sign AB205, which expands rights and responsibilities to domestic partners.

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Channel surfing

by Jim Provenzano

As if last month's aquatic accomplishments at IGLA 2003 weren't enough, here's an amazing story.

Local distance swimmer Duke Dahlin swam the English Channel.

Fulfilling a long-term goal, and making up for a previous attempt two years ago, the 55-year-old swam from England to France on August 8, joining thousands of others in thefeat, but being the only openly gay male swimmer to do it.

Traveling to Europe with coach John Otersberg along the route of his swim, he had a small crew of friends and professionals for support.

"You hire a fishing boat," Dahlin explained. Pilot Lance Oram ran the boat, with a crew member on board, as well as an official observer, and his partner, Joel Smart.

Despite the close proximity of his crew, "No one's allowed to

touch you," Dahlin said.

But he did have eat and drink. "We jumped off at 7:30 in the morning, and I swam for an hour," before dining on the strange nutritional substance known as "Goo."

For hydration, he said, "Somebody would pass me a bottle tied to a rope. That's all they can do. They pass the Goo with a stick. It's like being a fish." With his "feed times" being only a total of 13 minutes, it took Dahlin 14 hours, 37 minutes, and 4 seconds to complete the daunting swim.

Before the construction of the famed Channel train subway, swimming the English Channel has long been a goal for only the hardest of swimmers, with the first recorded swim in 1875, by a Captain Matthew Webb. His waterlogged woolen swimwear weighed about 3kg (10 lbs.).

According to Dahlin, it took Webb 23 hours. In those days, the swimmer was also greased down with lanolin, and used the breast-

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stroke. Dahlin's Australian crawl was "much more efficient."

Oceans of talent

Surprisingly, swimming the channel is more popular than one might think. Since Webb's triumph, there have been 6,200 known attempts to swim the English Channel. More than 470 people were successful over 600 times, including a 12-year-old boy in 1979, a 12-year-old girl in 1983, and a 65-year-old man in 1983. In a remarkable feat of endurance, 31-year-old Benoit Lecomte became the first man to swim across the Atlantic Ocean, in 1998.

Gertrude Caroline Ederle was the first woman to successfully swim across the English Channel, completing the feat on August 30, 1926, in 14 hours and 39 minutes.

Boston teacher Peter Jurzynski swam the channel eight times. Students at Oxford and Cambridge have long held challenges as well, which led to the official Channel Swim races.

The distance is 18.2 nautical miles which is approximately 21 land miles. Most of the England-France swims start from Shakespeare Beach between one hour before high water and one hour after high water, although the pilots do start at other times and places, depending on the tide, the weather conditions, the swimmer's ability.

Earlier in August, five Ohio-raised brothers swam the channel together to raise awareness for Prader-Willi syndrome, a genetic disorder suffered by their sister,



Joel Smart

Shore to shore: Duke Dahlin swimming the English Channel.

Patty Roberts.

The Channel Swim Association was formed to regulate the oft-attempted task. Dahlin's group, a spin-off, calls itself the Channel Island and Swimming Federation.

An avid ocean swimmer here in the Bay Area, Dahlin has done a lot of swimming with fishes here and abroad.

"I decided to do it about three years ago, when I was training with friends who were prepping for the English Channel, and having a good time," he said. "They thought I was a good candidate for it."

An accomplished Masters swimmer already, Dahlin said, "I got burnt out with all that pool swimming." Amsterdam was his last Gay Games.

"I needed a break from pool competition, a different venue, so I joined the Dolphin Club, and felt like a duck in water."

Of his ambitious influence, he joked, "Be careful who you hang out with! They inspired me to challenge myself even more."

Dahlin's first attempt in 2001 resulted in his nearly making it, but after 11 hours, he needed to stop.

Two weeks before that attempt, a 39-year-old trainer had had a heart attack and died while swimming the channel.

"We got a little cautious after that," said Dahlin. "I didn't have the confidence. So, I licked my wounds. Last year I went to Sicily, and swam along the coast of the Straits of Messina for over 15 miles."

He found the water so warm, he became dehydrated, and then decided to stick to cold water swims.

Smart, Dahlin's partner, knew he wanted to try the channel again, and encouraged Dahlin as he prepared by swimming all over the Bay Area. His route trailed from China Camp, past the Richmond Bridge, through Tiburon, down to Sausalito, past the Golden Gate Bridge, across to China Beach, then to Aquatic Park, where he circled for another four hours. That swim in the bay took 11 hours.

Of this rigorous rehearsal, "The last thing I wanted to do was have somebody pull me out of the water," said Dahlin. "I wanted to get on to the beach by myself."

Dolphinish

Why did he undertake such a daunting feat? "Everything I've ever done, I try hard," he said simply.

The toughest part of cold water swimming, he said, is that after the first two hours, "your

body reaches a state of euphoria."

Of the swim itself, he spoke of getting into "an emotional state that you cannot imagine. You cannot zone out. That's the last thing you want. That's a symptom of hypothermia. You can't go there. It's a dangerous frame of mind. You always want to be aware of where you are, of who you are. I never once felt tired."

Unlike others, Dahlin didn't even use earplugs.

Despite the occurrence of infections from polluted water or bacteria experienced by some local swimmers and surfers, Dahlin said he's been rather lucky, and has never had health problems related to swimming oceans, other than minor digestion problems. Some of those were actually caused by his food taken during the swim, including sports drinks, which had to be watered down.

The day before, however, when he and his crew went to carb up at an Italian restaurant, Dahlin had an adverse reaction to the food, and woke up vomiting. "It didn't look too good."

"The first hour felt really tough. The second and third were even harder. But then, I found this place in myself, and just kept a rhythm all the way through. Looking up at my crew, everyone had this confidence that I'd make it, so I never gave up on them, and they never gave up on me."

Dahlin said he never asked where they were along the route, until 12 hours into his swim. He maintained a stroke rate of about 56 per minute.

Along with his extensive ocean swimming experience, and Masters aquatics, Dahlin studied at San Francisco State University, where he played water polo and danced. He went to Mills College to get his master's in dance education, and studied with Lucas Hoving, a disciple of Jose Limon.

He currently works at a dental school, and continues his swimming workouts at the University of San Francisco and with the Dolphin Club.

Dahlin said he's swum 638 miles since January, not including his channel swim, which was 22 miles in length.

"You just have to have trust the people in the boat, and follow it. These guys did a fantastic job. I never had to worry."

For more info, visit www.dolphinclub.org.

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Local queer news show QTV back on air

by Matthew S. Bajko

After a long hiatus San Francisco's local gay television show QTV is back on the air. The half-hour program can now be seen the first Tuesday of the month on Comcast Cable's Channel 11 from 9 to 9:30 p.m. The locally produced show quietly returned to the air in August and will officially launch its revamped format with its October 7 broadcast.

"We have a year's contract with local Comcast Cable. The first time in quite a while that a gay TV program has made it up to the more mainstream-looking and feeling local cable channel. Now, if I can just keep it on for the next year," said Rahn Fudge, the producer and one of the creators of the show.

QTV first launched in October 1995 and has struggled ever since to stay on the air. Previously, the program would lease time on cable channel 27. Its last broadcast before August was last December.

While it has had problems maintaining a presence, QTV has built up a devoted following over the years. The volunteer-produced show is a perennial presence at all the major events that take place in the LGBT community, from gay Pride and street fairs to AIDS galas and nonprofit benefits.



QTV's Rahn Fudge

come and help you solve your troubled relationship."

A new personality will be Chablis, a local columnist and Imperial Court Empress, who will serve as a street reporter and cover transgender issues. Two new reporters, Jim Oswald and Joaquin Castillo, have also joined the newscast.

"We are looking for new people, production people especially," said Fudge.

The show's return is partly due to Fudge and his team's determination to keep QTV going, as well as Comcast's agreeing to move the show to its cable channel. Comcast waived a requirement that QTV carry a \$2 million insurance policy and moved it from its lease access channel to its local origination channel, which carries programs focused on local government.

QTV "offers another slant on the politics of the city. It enables another voice or voices to be heard and people to have access to that information as well," explained Greg Pond, Comcast's local programming coordinator. "It supplements our programming; that is pretty much what we look at when we are taking on shows we haven't produced."

Fudge said it will still be a challenge to keep the show on the air. He needs to raise up to \$5,000 a month to cover production expenses and fees for airtime paid to

Comcast. So far, several companies have signed on as advertisers to defray the costs, including Vox vodka, Interactive Male, and a local law firm. He is also in talks with JO Systems and Orbitz. Rates cost \$1,500 a month for a 30-second spot that airs three times during the show.

If he can sign up enough advertisers, Fudge said he would like to expand the show into a weekly program within a year or two. He said the viewership is there for a weekly news show devoted to covering gay news.

"The thing is, we are local. Local people get to see themselves," he said. "It is important for local people to see what they are doing."

"I want to grow the show so that everyday you can return home and see the daily dosage of news of the day that's gay. Until that moment comes, we will do what we can month-to-month to do what's important, keep it good and keep it on the air," said Fudge.

To volunteer for QTV, call (415) 431-5650 or e-mail Fudge at rahn@qtvnews.tv. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0268834-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tony Lee Consulting, 3845 21st Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anthony Peter Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 31, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/31/03.

AUG. 14, 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 2003

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION

CASE NUMBER: FL038876

Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.5 CCP by Edith Rizaldo Gordon, and it's satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Robert Alexander Gordon, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner as provided in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appears from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of Petitioner in pro per, Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation or a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained to be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication.

AUG. 14, 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269155-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: El Farolito Bar, 2777 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Salvador Lopez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268904-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: TravelSearch.com, 853 Arguello Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Charles M. Brosman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 4, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/04/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269280-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Slim's 333 11th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Dawn Holliday, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 16, 1988. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/19/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 2002-0261176-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: El Farolito Bar. Located at: 2777 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by a corporation signed Salvador Lopez, president. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: September 26, 2002.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269320-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Evedaalt, 37 Moss Street Apt. #A, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed David A. Carakas and Nathaniel U. Weber. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/20/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269186-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Four Star Video, 72 Sanchez Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph Erich Pearson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/13/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269188-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Video Oasis, 439 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a business trust signed David M. Ayob. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2003.

AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268830-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tosick Home Improvement, 2392 48th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed John F. Tosick. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 31, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/31/2003.

AUG. 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 2003

THIS GIVES NOTICE THAT MATT HOOVER HAS NO BUSINESS CONNECTION OR ASSOCIATION WITH AVATAR DIGITAL LLC OR ZACHARY GOTTLIEB.

AUG. 14, 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 2003

AB205

◀ page 2

people are in loving, positive relationships," Davis told reporters at a recent Capitol Hill news conference. "This bill does not just extend rights, it extends responsibilities, including child support."

Interestingly, a recent survey showed that LGBT rights advances have not led to a conservative backlash in California, despite the rocky political climate in the state and the backlash sweeping the nation.

East Bay Pride

◀ page 3

Arts Festival events, visit the East Bay Pride Web site.

Hayward Pride – the first event of its kind in that city, and Northern California's only nighttime Pride event – is essentially a block party, easily accessible from the Hayward BART station. The city provided \$5,000 for the inaugural event.

Hayward Pride features games, shows, live bands, a beer tent, spoken word, drag, exhibitors, dancing, kids' entertainment, and an alcohol-free space.

An independent poll released August 29 by Field Research showed that 42 percent of California voters support marriage equality, up from 28 percent when Field first asked the question in 1977. Half of California voters also oppose the proposed federal constitutional amendment that would bar same-sex marriages throughout the United States. Additionally, 72 percent support granting legal recognition in areas of family rights, such as hospital visitation and medical power of attorney rights. Sixty-one percent

support granting financial dependence status, including pension benefits, health insurance, and family leave.

"Californians support equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and our families," said Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, the statewide LGBT lobbying group. "Our civil rights movement has had some amazing gains this summer, and despite homophobic comments from the president and the pope, we are not seeing a backlash in California." ▼

larger mission is to create and show a political force of LGBT people outside of San Francisco.

"Pride is a really good vehicle to gain visibility and acceptance all over," he said. "Often when LGBT advocates are looking for funding or services, police or governments will say, 'Well that's not really necessary, gay people don't live here.' If we can show that gay people live in every city, we can get the city governments to be responsive to their needs." ▼

The East Bay Pride Web site address is www.eastbaypride.org.

Schwarzenegger

◀ page 21

ners who register with the state. "What's more important is that he continues to hide on our issues," Leno said – of Schwarzenegger. "He says he's for domestic partnerships. Well, that's great. That's the law of the land. He said he's against gay marriage. Well, fine. That's not on the table. What is on the table is [domestic partner rights bill] AB205. We need to know and need to know immediately whether he, like the governor, would sign that into law. My suspicion is that he is going to dance

and shuffle and do anything and everything but tell Californians where he stands on that issue.

"We also want to know where he stands on AB106, my gender bill, which the governor just signed into law. And, then also, our third LGBT caucus bill AB17, which is [Assemblywoman] Christine Kehoe's equal benefits bill, based on San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance mandating that those businesses which contract with the state provide equal benefits to domestic partners as they do to married partners.

"His hiring of Rob Stutzman, the spokesman for the [antigay marriage] Proposition 22 campaign a few years ago, is very dis-

heartening, of course," said Leno. "He is partnering with [former Governor] Pete Wilson through all this. Wilson was the LGBT community's worst nightmare 10 years ago when he stabbed us in the back when he vetoed the amendment to the fair employment housing act including sexual orientation which Governor Davis signed into law in 1999.

"The issues are clear and he must take a position and I will continue to demand that of him," Leno added. ▼

B.A.R. assistant editor
Matthew S. Bajko contributed to this report.

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LEGAL NOTICES
VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsups

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING BOARD

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board consists of thirty-four voting members.

The Board of Supervisors appoints eleven voting members. The Mayor appoints seventeen voting members.

The following departments shall make one appointment each: Public Health, Health Services, Mayor's Office of Homelessness, Mayor's Office of Community Development, Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Family Services; Commission on Aging. Vacant seat 2, must represent homeless or formerly homeless.

Vacant seat 5, must be a service provider.

Vacant seat 7, must be a service provider with the "floating" qualification of a focus on health services, HIV and harm reduction.

Vacant seat 11, must represent labor.

These seats serve a two year term ending May 15, 2005.

SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE

The Sunshine Ordinance Task Force consists of eleven members all of whom must have experience and/or demonstrated interest in the issues of citizen access and participation in local government.

At all times, the Task Force shall include at least one member who shall be a member of the public who is physically handicapped and who has demonstrated interest in citizen access and participation in local government.

Vacant seat 1, must be appointed from names submitted by the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and be an Attorney, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending April 27, 2004.

POLL WORKER OPPORTUNITIES

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STATEMENT FILE 0269417-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Personal Touch Electrology, 4105 19th Street @ Castro, San Francisco, Ca.

94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Terri Alise Long. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/25/2003.

AUG. 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269387-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Caprock Drill Design, 2049 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian Keith Leadingham. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/22/2003.

SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO CNC-03-540917

In the Matter of the Application of Suyzana Igorevna Volynskaya and Viktor Daniel Igorevich Volynskiy For change of Name. The application of Suyzana Igorevna Volynskaya and Viktor Daniel Igorevich Volynskiy has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Suyzana Volynskaya and Daniel Volynski. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003



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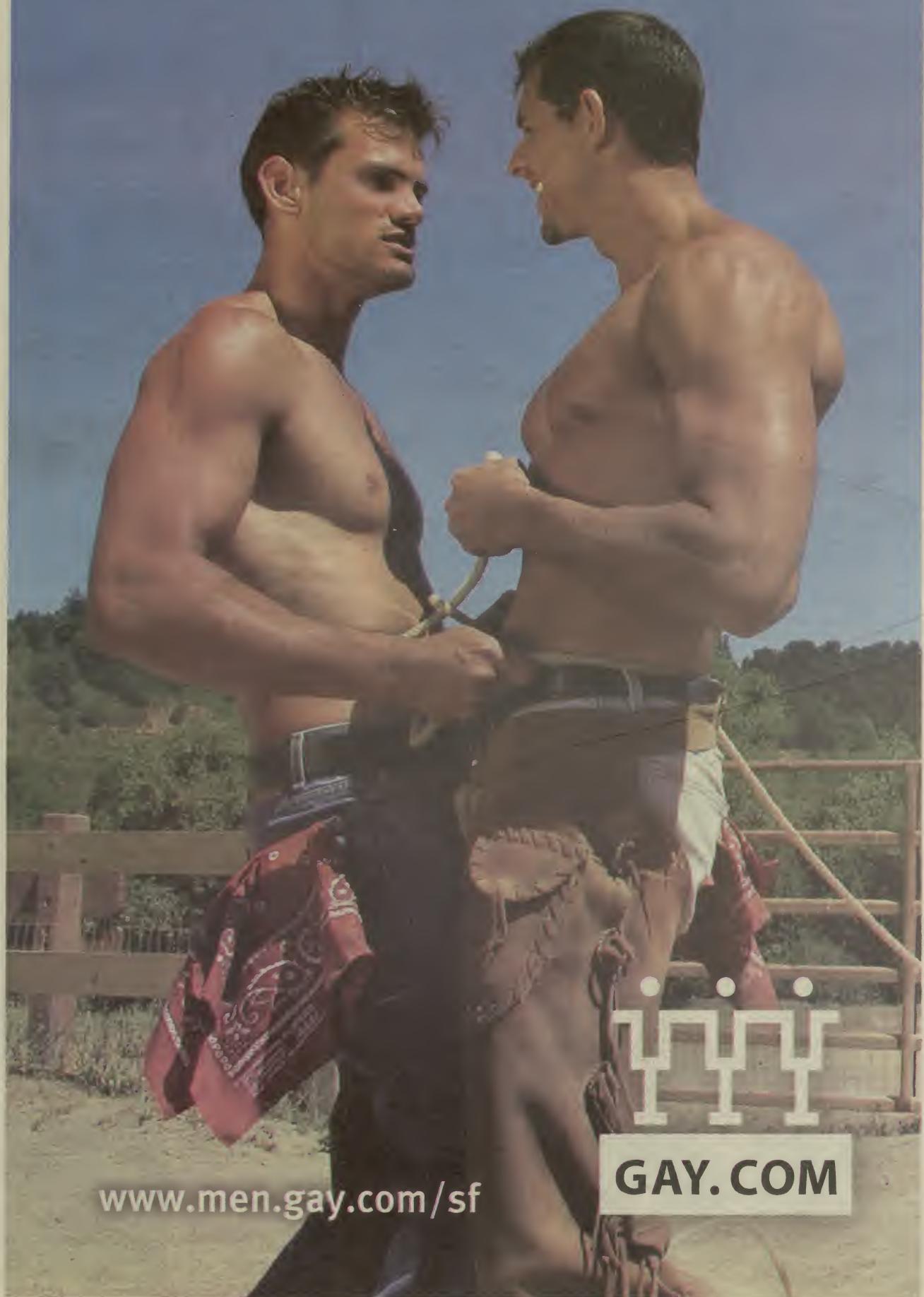
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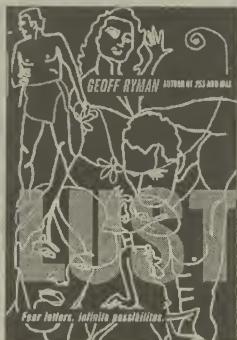
Arts foreplay for autumn, 2003

Consider our cultural appetite whetted

by Roberto Friedman

Whatever the hell does Out There do with all our free time? We mean, when we're not planning, assigning, editing, going into production, proofing or signing off on the very bundle of newsprint you hold in your hot little hands. The answer is: We partake of some small portion of all the fabulous cultural production going on around us in the Gay Area. Here are a few highlights from what's coming up this fall, in what promises to be an especially vibrant season.

Lust by Geoff Ryman (St. Martin's Press, Sept. 1) *Lust*'s protagonist, research scientist Michael Blasco, discovers that he has the strange power of being



able to make the object of his lust do exactly what he wants merely by suggesting it in his thoughts. He first realizes this when Tony, the humpy fitness trainer at his

gym he has a secret lech for, drops track-suit bottom and briefs on the platform of the Tube station and bends over, boyfriend, for him.

Since typically, lust goes unrequited ("even more frequently than love," as Ryman points out), the premise of the novel is immediately gratifying. The tale is told as a series of hypotheses ("Do they have to be male? Can I do more than one at once?") which Michael, ever the clinician, tests on a scientific basis. The summoned lust-bunnies include Tinseltown Tarzan **Johnny Weissmüller**, who, you might say, is the direct antecedent of the **Ah-nold** GOP android.

Want by Rufus Wainwright (Dreamworks, Sept. 23) The new album from the wonderfully out gay singer/songwriter, heir to a family of folk royalty, dad **Loudon Wainwright III** and mom **Kate McGarrigle**. Our advance copy has been on permanent rotation in the old CD deck. RW marvels at the state of the union on "Oh What a World," "Men reading fashion magazines! Straight men!"

Wainwright's world is an intriguing intersection of his gay, gay, gay sensibility and mainstream pop. "My phone's on vibrate for you," he sings. "Electroclash is karaoke, too. I tried to dance to **Britney Spears**. I guess I'm getting on in years."

Ever the sport, Rufus even has a go at page composition. "Wouldn't that be a lovely headline? 'Life Is Beautiful' on the *New York Times*."

Better to leave it to the experts. The actual *Times* headline in its Arts section last Sunday was, "Rufus Wainwright Journeys to 'Gay Hell' and Back." In a courageously honest interview, he admitted to past binges with crystal, ecstasy, coke, K and alcohol, before seeking help. "I'm a bit hesitant to talk about all this," he said. "But I'm



Tony Cenicola / The New York Times

Rufus Wainwright has been to gay hell and back, according to *The Times*.

only doing it because it might help somebody — and to say that there is no such thing as casual crystal meth use!"

Want 2 is already on the Dreamworks docket for 2004.

Giving head

"Christopher

O'Riley's Radiohead"

(Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, Wed., Sept. 17 at 8 p.m.) O'Riley will play his transcriptions for solo piano of songs from five

studio albums by Brit alt-rock godhead-band **Radiohead** (*Pablo Honey*, *The Bends*, *OK Computer*, *Kid A*, *Amnesiac*). Songs include "Everything in its Right Place," "Subterranean Homesick Alien," and "Exit Music (For a Film)."

The classically-trained pianist admits that the altie band's output has been "the music in my head" ever since he discovered *OK Computer* in '97. His passion for the group's sound and complexity led him to create piano versions of his favorite songs, recorded on *True Love Waits: Christopher O'Riley Plays Radiohead* (Sony), previously reviewed in these pages.

O'Riley began playing his Radiohead pieces as concert recital encores, and last year performed them on the radio show *Performance Today*. "That's what got the message out," he says. "My performances lived on the show's website, and all the Radiohead fan sites linked to them. By then it had become clear that this was a record." Info at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

Rainer Werner Fassbinder: *Another Look* When he died of a heroin overdose in 1982 at age 37, gay director Fassbinder had made



Fassbinder's films live on.

44 films in 17 years. Through Sept. 24, Pacific Film Archive presents new prints of 16 Fassbinder works, screened at the PFA Theater, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, and at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., SF.

Recommendations? *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, starring Fassbinder divas **Hanna Schygulla** and **Margit Carstensen** in what *The New Yorker* called "a haute couture lesbian pajama party." (PFA, 9/5; Roxie, 9/24) *Fox and His Friends*: RWF as a gay carnie who wins the lottery and is destroyed by his exploitative boyfriend. (PFA, 9/19; Roxie, 9/5-6, 21) *Beware of a Holy Whore*: Self-portrait of RWF and his set on location. Oh what a twisted entourage it is. (PFA, 9/12; Roxie, 9/3)

Cho zen one

Revolution by Margaret Cho (Netwerk America, Sept. 30) Recorded live at the Wiltern in LA during Cho's *Revolution* tour, which arrives at the Berkeley Community Theatre on Oct. 25. Seeing her contort her amazingly expressive face is half the pleasure, but listening to the advance CD had OT and pal **Pepi** chortling along, just the same. "Monogamy is so weird," observes Cho. "You know, like when you know their name and stuff."

She's great at targeting the unconscious racism of children, quoting a little girl she spied going bratty beside a poster of Cho at the multiplex. "Ewww, who wants to go see the Choo Chow Ching Ching Lady?" MC lets the child know, urgently, that she is the Choo Chow Ching Ching Lady, and she's coming to get her.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts celebrates 10 years in October. Greatest hits include performers **Brian Freeman**, **Joan Jeanrenaud**, **Will Power**, **Guillermo Gomez-Peña**, and more. Expect wall-to-wall coverage. Info: YerbaBuenaArts.org.

An olio of upcoming art shows: New work by the ever-inventive **Rex Ray**, through Oct. 24 at Michael Martin Galleries, 101 Townsend St. Info: mmgalleries.com.

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Artistic labors

Fall preview of Bay Area visual arts

by Will Shank

For art fans who are not interested in waiting in a block-long queue to see the works of Marc Chagall, of all people (through November 4 at SFMOMA), other Bay Area visual art offerings may entice you to other parts of the Bay Area this fall.

Labor Day got off with a bang at Yerba Buena with an outdoor picnic in the Gardens, and the nobility-of-the-worker theme is picked up by their neighbor, The California Historical Society, whose *At Work: The Art of California Labor*, currently on view, runs through December 20. A related version, *At Work: The Contemporary Perspective*, is at the Fine Arts Gallery of SF State until October 11. See www.californiastate.org for information on both venues.

Meanwhile, back at Yerba Buena, a 10th anniversary (how time flies!) extravaganza is planned for October, with a month-long series of commemorative events. A *Best Of* exhibition will fill the galleries from October 18 through January 4, featuring the work of such local luminaries as Barry McGee and Nayland Blake, among many others.

While the steel walls of the new de Young grow surprisingly quickly in Golden Gate Park, the Legion of Honor continues to jam-pack its galleries with greatest hits from the permanent collection and intriguing traveling exhibitions. Among the most noteworthy of the latter is a collection of 73 sculptures by Edgar Degas, borrowed from the Museu de Arte de São Paulo, Brazil, due on October 18 and running into the early weeks of the New Year. An extra admission fee will be charged. The borrowed works will be complemented by works from the Legion's permanent collection, and the occasion will be commemorated by related celebrations to thank Brazil for the loan, much as Poland was feted during the *Leonardo* show last year.

The virtual de Young may be viewed on the www.famsf.org website until it actually opens to the public in 2005.

Stanford University's Cantor Center will also be borrowing some choice works from another museum this fall. *Hudson River School* will bring some of the Wadsworth Atheneum's finest 19th-century canvases from their home in Hartford, Connecticut, beginning October 8. And on September 10, a look at an unusual period of a well-known Modernist painter opens at the Cantor



'Carpenter' (1950), a woodcut by Emmy Lou Packard, part of *At Work*

Center. *The Beginning of Seeing: Tribal Art and the Pictographs of Adolph Gottlieb* runs through January 4. Info at www.stanford.edu/dept/cvca, or (650) 723-4177.

The still-glittering new Asian Art Museum (yes, the old one is now rubble) will open two exhibitions on October 18, both closing January 11. *Goryeo Dynasty* highlights treasures from Korea's Age of Enlightenment (918-1392). It is complemented by contemporary works from Korea in *Leaning Forward, Looking Back*.

Standard bearer

On November 22, the Oakland Museum of California will premiere a traveling exhibition called *The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are*, which will last for almost four months, giving San Franciscans ample time to BART on over there. Ireland, whose work has set a standard for avant-garde art in the Bay Area for the past three decades, best known for his work-in-progress home in San Francisco's Mission District, whose transformation was recorded as performance art in the 1970s. Two hundred works will appear in the Ireland retrospective.

spective.

The Oakland Museum will also present its always-thoughtful *Dia de los Muertos* exhibition for a 10th consecutive autumn. *Globoal Elegies: Art and Ofrendas for Days of the Dead* runs from October 11 to December 7.

Two cultural institutions share the space at 1246 Folsom St., and they both have tantalizing projects ready to draw us through their doors this fall. Write down September 18 for the free (!) opening-night screening of several films by San Francisco artists Jeanne C. Finley and John Muse, the send-off of their retrospective, *Jovial Tales for Tragic Sensibilities*, at New Langton Arts. In the same space the following month, SF Camerawork will present *Locating Intimacy: The Space Between*, from October 28 to November 29, promising "spaces of desire," and featuring images of fantasy rooms and recontextualized pornographic stills.

While you've got your calendar out, make note of the annual fundraiser for Visual Aid, the art auction called *Big Deal*, where original art and your heart's desire can

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Masterpiece theatre

Fall '03 San Francisco Opera season preview

by Stephanie von Buchau

One thing San Francisco Opera can't claim about its 2003 opening-night work, Virgil Thomson and Gertrude Stein's *The Mother of Us All*, is that it's the first opera by an openly gay composer and librettist ever to begin the season of a major American company. The usually starchy Metropolitan Opera claims that honor; it opened the 1966 season in its new Lincoln Center digs with Samuel Barber and Franco Zeffirelli's ill-fated *Antony and Cleopatra*.

The difference, of course, is that *Mother of Us All* is an original masterpiece, whereas *Antony and Cleopatra* was only a *piece d'occasion* — the occasion being the near-suffocation of poor Leontyne Price inside a mechanical pyramid that stubbornly refused to open. No such disasters are projected for the War Memorial on September 6, as this Christo-

pher Alden production has been previously mounted — presumably without technical glitches — at Glimmerglass and New York City Operas.

And whereas *Antony and Cleopatra* is about a conventionally tragic heterosexual romance, *Mother of Us All* is anything but "conventional." It consists of eight loosely connected scenes, peopled with American icons such as Ulysses S. Grant, Daniel Webster, Lillian Russell, and even the composer and librettist, interacting with Susan B. Anthony, the celebrated 19th-century suffragist who struggled to get American women the right to vote. It also deals with the "slavery" of marriage, the disenfranchisement of women, blacks and the poor, and the brutality of men.

Anthony, born a Quaker, initially fought for emancipation of slaves, only to be horrified when the 14th Amendment promised voting rights only to "male" citi-



Courtesy of San Francisco Opera

zens. In the opera, Susan B. dreams about an African American man claiming his voting rights. She protests: "I fought for you that you could vote, would you vote if they would not let me?" Anthony, obviously a stand-in for Stein (she even has an Alice

Toklas-like companion, though I don't believe there is any evidence that Susan B. was a lesbian), doesn't think much of men in general. Another of her lines is: "Men cannot count, they do not know that two and two make four if women do not tell them so."

Bicentennial minute

I first heard *The Mother of Us All* in the bicentennial year of 1976, and was disappointed in the piece and in Santa Fe Opera's recording of their fussy Robert Indiana production (just re-released on compact disc by New World Records). I can't help wonder if a better-cast performance (to say nothing of supertitles) will help illuminate Stein's non-linear text. After all, Thomson has written: "I will have nothing to do with opera, except as poetic theater." That fits right in with the theatrical opera theories of SFO's Pamela Rosenberg.

It is worth noting that Santa Fe's Susan B. was mezzo Mignon Dunn, singing a role basically written for a Wagnerian soprano. SFO's eponymous heroine is Luana DeVol, a local singer who has made a *Hochdramatische* career in Europe; DeVol last appeared in the War Memorial as Ariadne 20 years ago. Despite Stein's dizzying text and Thomson's seemingly simplistic "prairie music," there is plenty about *Mother of Us All* that is flat-out operatic, especially the ensembles and the majestic, hymn-like apotheosis of Susan B., appearing on stage as a statue when suffrage was finally achieved some 14 years after her death. (Sept. 6, 10, 13, 17, 21, 26)

You'd think most of the pre-season buzz would concern *The Mother of Us All*, surely the most provocative, original idea anyone has had at SFO in eons. (Also possibly the most suicidal, since the opening-night crowd is usually older, deeply conservative, and the ones with the money that keeps the company afloat.) Yet most of the gossip emanating from the War Memorial concerns the fourth production, opening October 10, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

Musically, it is *terra incognita*. Except for the mezzo Rosina (Helene Schneiderman, who appeared in *Alcina* last fall), new to us are the first-cast tenor Yann Beuron, Figaro (Nathan Gunn, who looks great in a Speedo) and conductor Stefan Soltesz. Production gossip, however, is burning up the Internet. We read that Figaro is homeless; that the police summoned at the end of Act I will appear in Nazi uniforms; that Bartolo's house "sways to the beat." Okay, I'm game. For 30 years, SFO enjoyed Gunther Rennert's fabulous three-storyed mansion; it's time for a new edifice. (Oct. 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, 25, Nov. 21, 23)

Memories of the last two SFO productions of Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* raise painful associations. In 1981, it was conducted by Calvin Simmons, his last performance here before his tragic death. And in 1988, *Lady Macbeth* was led by Sir John Pritchard, the company's first music director, shamefully underrated by local critics, who later died on the job. (Nov. 9, 11, 14, 17, 20, 22)

next page ►

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New York choreographer Tere O'Connor's company presents two programs this weekend at Yerba Buena.

Degraded environments

Tere O'Connor at Yerba Buena Center

by Michael Wade Simpson

Like any artist, choreographer Tere O'Connor has gone through phases. He began using text in his choreography for several years, because "kicking my legs wasn't doing it anymore." But then he fell in love with dance again, and stopped. "On a silent body, you will create a narrative," he said in a recent interview.

Bringing his eight-member company from New York for an engagement at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts as the opening act for the month-long San Francisco International Arts Festival, O'Connor will present two programs. The two pieces on Program I, "Choke" and "Winter Belly," were the first works he choreographed post-text. For "Choke," he sent his dancers out on the streets to bring back "quo-

tidian" movement, which he edited film-style and abstracted. "Ideal and movement are parallel. They never meet, but describe each other."

"Winter Belly," created after September 11, was not a direct response to the event, but a kind of statement about the new psychology. O'Connor said New Yorkers and Americans operate with anxiety now. "There's no refuge on Earth anymore," he said. "I take refuge in my head." Winter in the psyche is about peace and quietude, he said. So is this dance.

Program II presents the world premiere of "Lawn," a pro-environment piece based on O'Connor's feelings about activism and nature, among other things. "I'm frustrated by the world's inability to tackle this issue," he said. The piece sprang out of the anger that he felt, but also includes the sense of love for nature. Video by well-known filmmaker Ben Speth plays a major role in the piece, according to the choreographer. "We refer to the most romanticized depictions of nature, as well as totally degraded nature.

"The structure of the piece

looks like kinetic debris," he said. He used the idea of recycling as well, taking dance material and passing it around to different dancers to use in different ways. He even took the metaphor of changing ecosystems and began to attempt to decontaminate his movement choices. "What would it be like if I had never been exposed to any sophisticated dance language?"

O'Connor is one of those famous choreographers you've probably never heard of. That should change. He created works for Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, received two New York Dance and Performance Bessie Awards, and has won a Guggenheim Fellowship and numerous grants from the NEA and other funding organizations.

"The world is in your head," he said. "Dance is the animal that results from all these thoughts. We're driven by something distant, deep." ▼

Tere O'Connor Dance, Sept. 4-7, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Info: (415) 978-ARTS, or www.YerbaBuenaArts.org.



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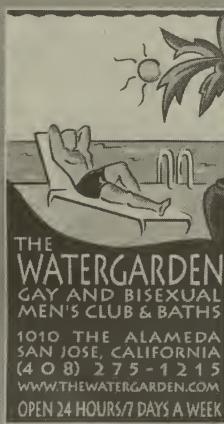
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Modern keeps moving

Fall dance performance in the Bay Area

by Michael Wade Simpson

Fall 2003 is not going to be a good time to nest. The dance is the happening thing, apparently. So much is being presented in September and October that it's possible to feel a little overwhelmed. Let this categorized and opinionated listing help you pick what to see. But by all means, don't stay home.

Event of the season (tie): **The Kirov Ballet & Orchestra**, Oct. 7-12, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley. A chance to see one of the world's most famous ballet companies and orchestras. Lately they've gotten into Balanchine, a Russian reclamation project that should be fascinating to see. They're doing *Jewels*.

San Francisco International Arts Festival, throughout September, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and other venues. Blazing-hot new stuff from all over the world, crammed into one month, with programming changing almost nightly. It includes Tere O'Connor, a New York modern choreographer who will be presenting a new pro-environment piece with film, "Lawn"; Akram Khan Chan, a highly-touted contemporary British choreographer with a background in Indian dance; a Brazilian company, Quasar Dance; and a group from Burkina Faso, West Africa. Also, *Circo Zero*, the French neo-circus with San Francisco roots, a mix of circus, dance, music, drag, performance and politics, choreographed by local gay artist/activist Keith Hennessy.

Homemade & cooking: **Motion-Lab**, Kathleen Hermesz-dorf. Oct. 16-18, 23-25, ODC Theater. Hermesz-dorf is one of the local modern dance scene's living legends. She presents 14 dancers in five premieres: *Enchanted*, *Wanderlust*, *Bounceback*, *The Swooning Room* and *The Longing Cycles*. Music by Albert Mathias and visual design by Elaine Buckshot will no doubt memorably figure into the magic, which is literally the subject of the evening.

Dance marathon/orgy: **Quasar Dance Company**, Akram Khan Company, Salini Seydou, *Circo Zero*, Sept. 17-



Huckabay McAllister Dance Troupe will appear at the Cowell Theatre.

20, Yerba Buena. If you attended every part of *The Cremaster Cycle* at the Castro, why not try a little dance gluttony on four consecutive nights at Yerba Buena? Guaranteed to offer more variety and less pretension than Matthew Barney. See *SF Arts Festival, above*.

Best date: **Mark Morris**, Sept. 4-6, 12-14, Zellerbach Hall. Morris continues on his journey as a choreographer who lives for great music. *L'Allegro il Pensoso ed il Moderato* is a Morris masterpiece, a Handel choral score with text by Milton, inspired by the weird watercolors of William Blake.

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Zellerbach Hall. East/West modern dance "Moon Water," based on Tai Chi, with a Bach cello concerto score.

Big Moves, Oct. 3-4, ODC Theater. Full-bodied dance produced by the nation's only organization dedicated to increasing size diversity in dance. Larry Goldhuber, former Bill T. Jones dancer, will be the guest artist.

Balletomania: **Suzanne Farrell Ballet**, Nov. 14-15. This Balanchine star has started her own ballet company based in Washington, DC, and the dance world has taken note.

Oakland Ballet Sept. 12-14,

Oct. 1-12, Nov. 8-9. These attractive dancers perform contemporary ballets in a variety of styles. Their home is the fabulous art-deco Paramount Theater.

Dance "in-crowd" must-see: **Terre O'Connor Dance**, Sept. 4-7, YBCA Theater. See *facing page*.

Sonya Delwaide, Sept. 26-27, ODC. "New York Dada by way of Montreal," according to *San Francisco* magazine, which named her one of its "Hot 100." She was also one of *Dance* magazine's "Top 25 People to Watch in 2002."

Hot imports: **Kenneth Kvarnstrom & Co.**, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, Yerba Buena. This Finnish choreographer based in Stockholm is being brought in by San Francisco Performances. They must know something.

Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre, Nov. 7-8, Zellerbach Hall. Martha Graham meets the 21st century. A former Graham dancer has been making a name for himself as a lyrical, romantic choreographer.

Local buzz: **Mary Carbonara Dance**, Sept. 12-14, Dance Mission Theater; **Huckabay McAllister Dance**, Sept. 12-13, Cowell Theatre; **Chitresh Das Dance Company**, Sept. 18-20, ODC Theater; **The Hula Show**, Oct. 4-5, 10-12, Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. ▶



Photo by Elena Dorfman, part of *Locating Intimacy: The Space Between*

Visual arts

◀ page 31

be had for only \$110 at SomArts Gallery, on Brannan between 8th & 9th. It takes place this year on Saturday, November 15, and the most fanatical, er, devoted art-shoppers line up the night before.

Since security concerns keep travelers without boarding passes from viewing SFO's thought-provoking (and fun!) installations of design objects, some of the slack has been taken up, in the North Bay at least, by that what-is-it-exactly place in Napa, Copia. *Lunchbox Memories*, featuring examples of the most ubiquitous *tchotchke* of our collective American childhood, the lunchpail, runs from September 26 to December 1. *Salad Dressing: Food in Fashion* opens on September 19, through January. Copia, The American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, is at 500 First St. in downtown Napa. Info: (888) 51-COPIA. ▶

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Movie previews

◀ Arts cover

brother Lance, who's just been kicked out of college ("They said I instituted a homosexual orgy in the faculty lounge"); and Jason Priestly plays Angela's loverboy as a Lothario with a twist of Tab Hunter and "the biggest cock West of the San Andreas Fault." (Halloween)

Yossi & Jagger No matter how many times you hear "O Little Town of Bethlehem," you forget it snows in the Middle East. In Eytan Fox's *Yossi & Jagger*, two Israeli soldiers are rolling around in the snow. Their outdoor sex magically frees them to dream of a future for their relationship beyond furtive sex, when the guns are quiet, in sight of the enemy and just out of sight of their own unit. Y & J question whether they can be a real couple.

"Yossi, would you stay with me if I lost a leg, or got all burnt up, *English Patient*-style?"

"With or without eyelashes?"

From the director of *Time Off*, a 1990 short about an Israeli officer cowering with a study private in a barracks latrine. (October)

Prey for Rock 'n' Roll Gina Gershon does her own singing in this girl-band drama based on the hardscrabble misadventures of punk rocker Cheri Lovedog. With a lesbian subplot and a nifty supporting cast, Drea de Matteo (*Sopranos*) and Lori Petty, this well-scored musical gets a creative boost from part of the team behind *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. (September)

Porn Theatre "It's the full moon. I need cock." Like the chorus from a particularly randy modern opera, Jacques Nolot's *Porn Theatre* reveals what the patrons of a Paris grindhouse say to each other in the dark. That cutie guy, who seems a dream come true, turns out to be an ex-soldier, who's now just another working girl. "I used to charge 100 [francs] in the Army."

Regulars observe their rituals, flicking their Bics and wiping seats off with tissues before their hard day's night — moments that confirm why *Porn Theatre* made John Waters' Top 10 list. (October)

Angels in America It's just over a decade since Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning play debuted in San Francisco, became a best-selling book, and revolutionized gay theatre by totally transcending the category. Directed by Mike Nichols, with an all-star cast: Meryl Streep, Emma Thompson, and Al Pacino as Roy Cohn. (HBO/December)



Grindhouse rock: a scene from Jacques Nolot's *Porn Theatre*.

Mambo Italiano There's a

temptation to dismiss this family comedy (based on a play of the same title) as *My Big Fat Gay Italian Wedding*. Angelo (Luke Kirby) decides to leave the Montreal home of his Italian-born parents (Paul Sorvino and Ginette Reno), who argue, "What's wrong with living with your parents until you get married?"

Turns out Angelo's new roommate Nino (Peter Miller) is a family friend, a cop, and secretly his lover. For once, a film shot in Canada has the integrity to be set in Canada. (Sept. 19)

Under the Tuscan Sun

This Italian-set romance has three assets: the landscapes of Rome and Tuscany, the attempt of Diane Lane to top her Oscar-worthy role in *Unfaithful*, and a gay angle. Out actor/writer Dan Bucatinsky co-stars (so splendid in his own dramedy, *All Over the Guy*). Sample dialogue: an antiques dealer (Raoul Bova) courts Lane with the line, "I want to make love all over you."

So Close This eye-popping special effects Hong Kong action flick from director Cory Yuen gets its energy squared by a pair of female assassins who practically destroy the headquarters of a sinister corporation in a breath-taking opening sequence. Added attraction is a persistent female cop and her nerdy male

assistant. (September)

Showboy Getting fired from a prestigious cable TV show inspires a writer (Christian Taylor) to pursue his dream of being a showboy in this Las Vegas-set mockumentary. (October)



Jena Malone and Macaulay Culkin are *Saved!* in high school.

Saved! Jena Malone stars as a Christian high school girl who reacts to her boyfriend's exit from the closet by stirring things up on her conservative campus. (November) ▼



Steamy mirror scene from *Prey for Rock 'n' Roll*: misadventures of a punk rocker, with a lesbian subplot.



18-year-old Christophe (Cyrille Thouvenin) says hello by giving a big, wet one to Alain (Pascal Greggory).

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Romp among bisexuals

A joyful 'Confusion of Genders' ensues

by Brandon Judell

If *The Importance of Being Earnest* had been about French libidinous bisexuals, *Confusion of Genders* might have been the result. This deliciously wry farce mixes nudity, romance, obsession, and self-centeredness into a stirring soufflé of sophisticated entertainment. If this date film can't get you laid, you might as well hang up your genitals for good.

Writer/director Ilan Duran Cohen's hero here is Alain (Pascal Greggory), a middle-aged, second-rate stud lawyer with a top-notch body, a face that grows on you, and an inability to commit.

One day, Alain decides to propose to his female boss, Laurence (Nathalie Richard), while she's dancing with another guy at a party. Laurence knows Alain doesn't love her, but her biologi-

cal clock is ticking, and she believes they'll have beautiful children together, so what the hell.

But before the ceremony can take place, Laurence is seduced by an ex-girlfriend's much younger brother, Christophe (Cyrille Thouvenin).

If this weren't enough, Alain has also fallen for the devout but not bright heterosexual Marc (Vincent Martinez), a gorgeous multiple murderer whose case he's just lost. During a prison visit, Marc asks Alain to buy a note to his fiancee, Babette (Julie Gayet). Why does Marc trust him? Alain wants to know.

Alain: "Why do you think I'm gay?"

Marc: "The way you look at me. You want to be fucked."

Alain: "Really?"

Marc: "Many men have wanted me to fuck them."

Truer words have seldom been spoken.

If matters weren't complex enough, Babette and Alain fall for each other, and then Christophe wants Alain to marry him.

Christophe: "I have a friend who's a Buddhist. He said we could put candles and incense everywhere. We can get kosher wine if you want."

And that's just the start of the film. We won't even mention Marc's cellmate, a prisoner who enjoys designing women's dresses.

A superb cast, sprightly direction, crisp editing by Fabrice Rouaud, snappy dialogue, and brazenly colorful cinematography by Jeanne Lepoirie all add up to make *Confusion of Genders* the best bisexual comic romance of the year. ▶

Opens Friday.

Out There

◀ page 30

Art photog Arthur Tress shows *Faceted Fictions - the Crystal Ball series* at the Center for Photographic Art, Sept. 12-Oct. 17, in the Sunset Cultural Center, San Carlos & 9th St., Carmel. Info: (831) 625-5181.

Photo Sex-Fine Art Sexual Photography Comes of Age, opens Fri., Sept. 12, 8 p.m. at **Mark I. Chester's** studio, 1229 Folsom St.

Photogs include Michael Rosen, Phyllis Christopher and Tee A. Corinne. Info: mchster.best.vwh.net.

An advance copy of the *Ab-solutely Special* DVD (BBC, Sept. 30) made our day. It includes *Ab Fab: The Last Shout* (from '97) and *Ab Fab: New York* ('03), with cameos by Whoopi Goldberg, Debbie Harry and Rufus Wainwright; out-takes; and a commentary track. Pop icon Marianne Faithfull, as God, corrects Eddy (Jennifer Saunders) when she

promises to make Her really big by taking Her on as her PR client. "I already am big. I'm real. Real things don't need PR." Can we get that embroidered on a pot-holder?

A new run of *Ab Fab* episodes is currently in production and is scheduled to debut in the US on the Oxygen Network in Jan. '04. ▶



Mark I. Chester, Dahn & Craig – boot stomping, 2000

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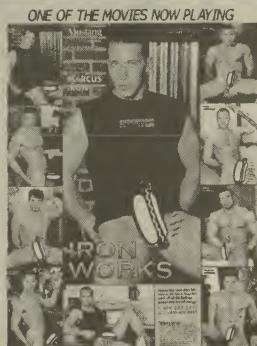
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Wonder woman

'ManLady' at New Conservatory Theatre

by Richard Dodds

In *ManLady*, the passionate, versatile actor is able to elevate the author's only sporadically compelling material. In fact, the actor and author are the same person, George Weiss Vando, who is presenting his solo catharsis at New Conservatory Theatre Center.

In the quasi-autobiographical piece, Vando tells us how he at first felt empowered by drag, then felt entrapped by it, before finding gender harmony. It's not a particularly novel tale, and the personalized detailing doesn't often

make it more so. His dad, for example, wanted him to play sports and had trouble saying, "I love you." The mother he describes is a little more interesting, doing things like renting *Torch Song Trilogy* to help her teenage son realize he's gay, and sewing him a red Superman cape that, in his mind, makes him Wonder Woman.

The piece is styled as a kind of

60-minute internal

dialogue/breakdown/renewal that

doesn't always let the audience in

on its reality. It's meant, possibly,

to be a visceral experience, but the

material isn't always strong

enough to carry us into Vando's

space, even when he's ranting

about straight guys who want to suck drag queens' dicks.

But Vando plays it for all it's worth, convincingly segueing from sissy to bully to vixen to bitch. He also gets to display the drag-performance skills that made him an underground celebrity in Seattle. This isn't the Judy Garland-Shirley Bassey school of lip-sync, but authentically manic impressions of Janet Jackson and Alanis Morissette.

Vando does talk about changing gay tastes, and makes a few interesting points that seem to carry a lingering bitterness. But the end is upbeat and includes a terrific image: After angrily shedding his red dress, he throws it over his shoulder, where it looks a lot like a superhero's cape. Superman and Wonder Woman have called a truce. ▶

ManLady will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Sept. 7. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.



George Weiss Vando in *ManLady*: meant to be a visceral experience.

Steve Hamilton

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Theatre preview

◀ Arts cover

Stephen Schwartz of *Pippin*, *Godspell*, and *Wicked* fame. The TheatreWorks production begins performances March 31 in Mountain View.

Show tunes

American Musical Theatre of San Jose has three intriguing items on its season. *On the 20th Century*, infrequently done, opens Oct. 31. And then there's *Dreamgirls*, opening Jan. 9. And because it had put seed money into the hit stage version of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, it gets first dibs for the first Bay Area run of tour, beginning April 13.

TheatreWorks and director Robert Kelley have proven their affinity for Sondheim musicals, and this season they will have a go at *A Little Night Music*, opening Oct. 11. This will be the seventh Sondheim show for Kelley and the theater.

42nd Street Moon resumes its exploration of "lost musicals," after a summer break, with *Finian's Rainbow*, the show designated this season for a full-orchestra production. The six-performance run begins Sept. 24 at the Alcazar Theatre.



Playwright Adam Bock returns.

New Conservatory Theatre Center is offering a concert staging of *A Man of No Importance*, the recent Lincoln Center musical about a community theater director in England who must come to grips with who he really is. Created by the *Ragtime* team of Terrence McNally, Lynn Ahrens, and Stephen Flaherty, it opens March 13.

Marin Theatre Company opens its season on Sept. 9 with

the cheery chestnut *Me and My Girl*, and will finish up in May with a concert production of *Beggar's Holiday*. Reworked by lyricist Dale Wasserman (*Man of La Mancha*), it's the only musical with a complete score by Duke Ellington.

Seasoned greetings

Christmas with the Crawfords returns to San Francisco after a four-year absence. Opening Nov. 20 at Theatre Rhinoceros, the broad spoof imagines an all-star holiday party hosted by Joan Crawford.

At New Conservatory, the New Kinsey Sicks will be jingling our bells with *Oy Vey in a Manger!* "America's favorite dragapella barbershop quartet" will begin holiday harmonizing on Nov. 19.

Star turns

Two Oscar-winning actresses will be emoting simultaneously, but on opposite sides of the Bay, later in the season. First, Olympia Dukakis returns to ACT for the fifth time on May 13 to play the title character in *A Mother*, a new adaptation of a Maxim Gorky play.

And East Bay resident Rita Moreno will portray ultimate diva

next page ▶



And you thought a drag queen's dressing room was bad — a whole lotta *Hairspray* is coming to the Golden Gate.

Paul Kornik

Paris is burning

Yo-Yo Ma's 'La Belle Epoque' on CD

by Tim Pfaff

Exciting and brilliant as Yo-Yo Ma's adventures away from the standard repertoire often are, his returns to it are always welcome, and usually fresher for his having been "away." I hope and assume his new *Flamenco* CD is good, but that will be for others to discover. I'm too busy relishing *La Belle Epoque* (Sony Classical) to get on that part of his dance card.

Somewhat surprisingly, Ma calls this CD of turn-of-the-century French chamber music a "roots" enterprise, partly due to his having been born in Paris to Chinese parents who emigrated to the city so aptly evoked in this music. What is likely to make it of greater interest to BAR readers is the fact that the repertoire is the music — specifically, not just generally — that Proust both listened to and recreated in words. If it were neither of those things, it would be well worth the listen.

For this project, Ma has chosen for his pianist partner Kathryn Stott, a multifaceted musician much admired by pianophiles but known to the public as a specialist in French music of this era. They play as one, as is clear from the start, with Ma's transcription of the famous "Méditation" from *Thais*, a sucrose-laden confection few violinists have left untasted. Stott's contribution is as luscious



as the cellist's — who, for his part, adds some interesting contours to the shapely line of what is, in the hands of lesser musicians, one of classical music's great taffy pulls.

In this sense, this CD does represent some "stepping out" on Ma's part, since all of the pieces — in addition to the Massenet, Faure's Sonata No. 1, Saint-Saëns' "Habanera," and the towering César Franck Sonata — are violin music that has been transcribed for cello (in three of the four cases, by Ma himself). There is actual gain in the Faure, where the cello's bigger, richer sounds underscore the large scale of the work that established the composer's greatness. Having recorded the deceptively difficult Faure piano works several times, Stott proves a splendid partner, and the pair trace the adventure of the sonata's four movements with a bravura that should kill once and for all the tired idea that French music of this period is all pastels.

The Franck Sonata, so imme-

diate (and deservedly) popular that a cello version came hard on the heels of the original, benefits from Ma's supreme musicianship, in which amplitude, ease, and exuberance continue their magical blend. Still, impressive and insightful as the playing is, the cello's lower register dampens some of the yearning only the violin's loftier range can realize.

Urgent message

Almost eerily, a live version of the Franck, in its original violin version, has just appeared on EMI Classics, and even though its soloist, Renaud Capuçon, is just 27 and as yet little-known, his urgent, masterful version has for me jumped to second place only to that of the live Oistrakh-Richter version EMI issued nearly a half-century ago. A further irony is that another favorite reading is yet another live EMI CD featuring violinist Itzhak Perlman and Martha Argerich, the pianist behind the 2002 Lugano Festival at which the Capuçon performance was taped.

Here, Capuçon is superbly partnered by Alexandre Gurnig, but the triumph is unambiguously his. He takes the long opening motive in a single instrumental "breath," and goes on to bind the whole, superbly integrated sonata into a single, passionate statement characterized by gesture after telling gesture, not a note thrown away. The fiery playing is noteworthy in itself, but it's the depth



of feeling in this interpretation that sets it apart. I'll be revisiting it often.

Even more remarkably, it is paired with a performance of the Rachmaninov Cello Sonata featuring the remarkable pianist Lilya Zilberstein (taking on the part the composer played at the work's premiere) and Capuçon's younger brother, Gautier. The

sonata is often considered a piano work with cello accompaniment, but no one seems to have told the 22-year-old Gautier that. Like his older brother, he swallows the piece in a single, ravenous, appreciative gulp. While two musicians this individual shouldn't be compared, their shared ability in wringing such patently human sounds out of their wood, steel, gut, and hair instruments bolsters their greatness as musicians. If both don't go on to major careers, there is no sanity in the music industry. ▼

Theatre preview

◀ previous page

Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's *Master Class*, opening at Berkeley Rep on May 21. Moises Kaufman (*The Laramie Project*) will direct.

Eddie Izzard, the straight semi-transvestite comic, returns with a new show, *Sexie*, running Sept. 9-13 at the Orpheum Theatre. Another Englishman, the really-gay Graham Norton, will perform his comic show *Red-Handed* at the Alcazar on Sept. 16-20.

From Broadway

There are no gay characters in *Hairspray*, due at the Golden Gate in the spring, but it's the gayest show now on Broadway. Bruce Vilanch will take the Harvey Fierstein role, itself based on Divine's creation in the John Waters movie.

Richard Greenberg's *Take Me Out* considers the repercussions of a star baseball player's decision to come out. In addition to its timely subject matter, the New

York production has received considerable attention for its locker-room nudity. At the Curran in Summer 2004.

Also on tap

Impact Theatre is offering *Say You Love Satan*, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's comedy about a gay man who suspects his new boyfriend may be the son of Satan. Performances begin Feb. 6 at LaVal's Subterranean in Berkeley.

TheatreWorks and Brava Theatre Center are sharing *Nickel and Dime*, Joan Holden's adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's journal of her attempts to survive on minimum wage. The TheatreWorks run opens Sept. 6 in Mountain View and moves to Brava on Oct. 1.

Laramie Project headwriter Leigh Fondakowski is assembling a new work created from interviews of Jonestown survivors and historical documents. *We Were Rising: The People's Temple 25 Years Later* will open Oct. 13 as a Z Space Studio/Word for Word production.



The cast of *Me and My Girl*, coming from Marin Theatre Company.

In *Wintertime*, playwright Charles L. Mee (*Big Love*) again combines Greek drama, French farce, musical comedy, and off-the-wall physical comedy. The comedy, opening Nov. 29 at San Jose Rep, is set in a secluded snowbound house where a young man brings his girlfriend, only to discover his mother with her lover, and his father with his boyfriend. ▼

Richard Dodds' can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

iViva 'Viva Variety'!

Some of the best variety-show entertainment I've experienced in my soon-to-be 50 years of living on this planet (21 of them in this lovely city) has come from Steve Murray's *Viva Variety!* I've spent a lot of time, as Steve knows, making up my mind about the show, mainly because I've attended too few of the monthly events to get a complete picture of what he's offering. Now that I've seen his production five or six times (out of 33), I'm ready to belatedly give "Viva Variety" a big two thumbs up!

Murray is a superior showman — one with a social conscience, who demonstrates enormous respect for his community by supporting local LGBTQ charities — and *Viva Variety* consistently delivers artists with class and style in a rollicking evening of live music, dance, comedy, spoken word, puppetry and other art forms.

Each show is hosted by Murray, playing the Ed Sullivan role, albeit openly queer and far more animated. Most often he's accompanied by his vivid, insanely twisted, tragicomic semi-sidekick Peggy L'Eggs (of rock-band Pepperspray fame) and his low-key electronic-soundscape artist Geno Valle, who opens each show and plays at intermissions. Other than that, everything's up for grabs, the artist line-up changing each time.

Each *Viva Variety* performer gets to do a short number or a couple of songs, and almost invariably they're fabulous! The audiences adore them! In fact, the audiences fascinate me as much as the performers do. *Viva Variety* attendees are seasoned theatergoers, mostly aging lesbians and gay men, and this regular outing is becoming a ritual for them. They eagerly anticipate the night's selections, and respond with yelps, stomping, whistling, the occasional cat-calling, and much laughter, always while giving the artists their whole attention.

Not all *Viva Variety* acts are totally awesome, of course. Some are middling, and some outright suck, but that's the nature of the variety-show beast. *Viva Variety* is a grab-bag in which treats are many and duds are few and far between.

The latest two shows — *Viva Variety* 32 and 33 — included some of my favorite performers, whose artistry I've admired in other settings, including singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield; the Alexis Harte Band (with adorable Adrian West on violin); the legendary Arturo Galster as Patsy Cline; and new singer-about-town Spencer Day and his jazz combo. The shows also introduced me to exciting artists, notably Kitten on the Keys, a dizzy act involving a woman, her piano, and a stuffed kitten; and the great Blake, a comedian who looks like he ought to be carved on Mt. Rushmore, he's such a commanding figure. More to the point, his humor is fearless and rock solid.

Enough said. I can't detail all the acts. You'll need to pick out your own favorites at the next "Viva Variety" on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at the cozy, comfortable Buriel Clay Theater in the Afro-American Art & Culture Center at 762 Fulton St. (at Webster). For tickets and details, call 863-0741 or visit www.maketeoproductions.org. ▼



"Yellow Fog," watercolor, ink and pencil, 2002, by René Capone, part of 'Mount' at Live Art Gallery. See Saturday

Fri

'A Beautiful Man' @ Jon Sims Center for the Arts

JSC/Alchemy Emerging Playwrights at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) in association with the SF Fringe Festival presents *A Beautiful Man*, by Iowa-bred playwright Joe Jennison (currently Arts & Entertainment Editor for the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*), directed by Jeffrey Hartgraves, starring David Bicha, Matthew Vierling, Sarah Mitchell, and PA Cooley. It's a San Francisco-flavored comedy about one man's wishful thinking, and how it paves two possible roads — one leading to eventual insight, the other leading to ongoing denial. Andy J's daily work routine (tedious as it is) derails when Benji, a new hire, is put under his supervision. Benji is the "beautiful man" of the title whose earnestness and love for Richard Bach's philosophical oeuvre Jonathan Livingston Seagull wins Andy J's admiration...and then fluctuation...and finally behavior that might rightly be described as obsession, loss-of-reality, even stalking...Yes: it's all rather cute! \$8. First come, first served starting 30 min. before show. No reserved seating. 7pm tonight; 7 & 8:30pm Sat; 8pm Sun. Also 8pm Sept 9, 3pm & 4:30pm Sept 13; and 6pm Sept 14. JSC, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & South Van Ness). Info: www.jonsimscrt.org; www.sffringe.org

'San Francisco International Arts Festival' @ YBCA

"The First Annual San Francisco International Arts Festival" presents New York choreographer Tere O'Connor in two programs: (Fri. & Sat.) "Choke" and "Winter Belly" (set to the haunting music of Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina) plus an untitled new work; and (Sun.) "Lawn," an evening-length multimedia work combining O'Connor's innovative physical language with film. \$18 & \$28. 8pm Sept. 4-6; 7pm Sept. 7. YBCA Theatre, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 824-8844; www.sflintartsfest.org

'CSZ's 'Shabbat Welcome Dinner' @ Zao Noodle Bar

Congregation Shaar Zahav (CSZ) invites members to start Shabbat off with good food and great company at Zao Noodle Bar in the Castro. Dinner is "pay-your-own-way" (usually about \$15). Meet at CSZ at 6:15pm to walk to Zao together, or meet at the restaurant at 3586 16th St. (near Market).

CSZ's new monthly dinners will be the first Friday of each month preceding the 8:15pm service. RSVP by Friday, 9/5 at noon to the CSZ office (861-6932; office@shaarzahav.org) or to this month's host, Tony Harris (552-1882; tony_harris@sbcglobal.net).

'The Demon Pope' @ The Next Stage

The Demon Pope comes to The Next Stage as part of the SF Fringe Festival. The play joins C.A.F.E.'s Tilted Frame Improv and Idiot Machine performing in repertory as Festival "Bring Your Own Venue" shows in the beautiful multi-media house, The Next Stage. The plot: Late in the 10th century, a young monk makes a deal with Lucifer. Thirty years and 30 days later, in the first year of the first millennium (1001 AD), the young monk is now an old

pope — and Lucifer (Diana Brown) returns to collect. Faith, science and politics collide in this fable for the new millennium. A serious comedy about the beginning of Time and the End of the World. Tickets are \$8 all shows. Showtimes are Friday, @ 7pm Sept 5; 9:30pm Sept 6; 6pm Sept 7; 10:30pm Sept 12; 6pm Sept 13; 9:30pm Sept 14. Next Stage, 1620 Gough (at Bush). Tix/info: 902-2866.

'Jazz on the River' @ Johnson's Beach, Guerneville

The two-day (Sat. & Sun.) "Jazz on the River Festival" opens with eight-time Grammy Award-winning vocalist/guitarist George Benson crossing the lines between R&B, soul and jazz, plus Stanley Clarke, Ledis, Bobby Hutcherson/Cedar Walton Quartet, and Lava Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers. On Sunday: Al Jarreau, Norman Brown, Brian Culbertson, Joyce Cooling, and Orchestra La Moderna Tradición. Presented by Lupe De Leon and the Russian River Blues Festival. \$47.50 adv; \$52.50 gate; (\$90 adv. or \$100 gate for both days). Tix/info: 510-655-9471; www.jazzontheriver.com

'Open House' @ Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav hosts its 3rd annual "That's CSZ," the synagogue's Annual Open House. Share the sweetness of Shabbat and the joy of Haddalah. Explore CSZ's progressive/inclusive community for LGBT Jews. Food, drink, singing and schmoozing. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a progressive Reform synagogue, established in 1977, serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual Jews, together with lovers, family and friends, both Jewish and non-Jewish. CSZ welcomes all who wish to celebrate with Rabbi Camille Shira Angel. Free. 7-9pm, 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: www.shaarzahav.org

'911 Power to the Peaceful Festival' @ Golden Gate Park

Michael Franti, Spearhead and Guerrilla Management present the "5th Annual 911 Power to the Peaceful Festival," combining music, art and activism to uplift spirits and spread awareness. Performances by Franti & Spearhead, Saul Williams, Keller Williams (acoustic), Lyrics Born, Zion I, Pam Africa, Ram Das, Mario Africa, Julia Butterfly, Ellen Ferraro & more. Free. All ages. 11am-5pm. Speedway Meadow, golden Gate Park. (Afterparty w/ Franti & Spearhead 9pm-2am at Studio Z \$10).

'Other Cinema' @ ATA Gallery

ATA Gallery's "Other Cinema" opens its Fall '03 season with "Baghdad by the Bay," a program of videos and performances about resistance in the on-going war in Iraq. In its debut, Norman Thomas's *Why War?* visits with Noam Chomsky, Tony Benn, and Tariq Ali in a survey of the historical determinants for the present crisis. Also: Whispered Media screen their 50-min. *We Interrupt This Empire*, a rousing call to protest the despotic "pre-emptive incursion." \$5. 8pm doors; show 8:30pm. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

'Mount'

@ Live Art Gallery

Opening reception and party: Live Art Gallery presents "Mount," curated by Larry Aleshire, a group show by nine of the co-op studio's artists — Larry Aleshire, Kathy Bréni, René Capone, David Faulk, Tom Fowler, Michael Johnstone, Bailey Rosen, Sam Russell, and Sookie — displaying works ranging from photography to mixed media and painting. Enjoy the art, the atmosphere, the people, the DJ sounds, and at 10pm a drag spectacle! Free. 7-11pm. 151 Potrero Ave. (at 15th St. in the Potrero Hill design district). Show runs thru Sept. 30. Info: 695-0119.

'Craig Rubano' @ The Plush Room

Sneak preview: "Finishing the Act," in which Broadway baritone Craig Rubano, recipient of (among other high honors) the 2002 New York Back Stage Bistro Award for Outstanding Vocalist, delivers a paean to Broadway's Act 2 —

Finales, when the show's plot has reached a turning point and, as intermission approaches, the songs are about hope — even dashed hope. With Alex Rybeck on piano. 10:30pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 885-2800; www.plushroom.com

'Mars Day (& Night)' @ Randall Museum

The Randall Museum hosts an all-day (and night) astronomy presentation, with NASA Mars scientists on hand during the day for lectures, and the SF Amateur Astronomers sharing their telescopes at night — focused on Mars as it makes its closest visit to Earth in recorded history. Free. 2pm-10pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Info: 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org

Sun

'Art for Life Auction' @ Friedman Center, Santa Rosa

The 16th annual "Art for Life Auction" features 250 works of art, hors d'oeuvres from top chefs, world famous wine, a fascinating crowd, jazz by The Shelley Jae Group, and more. Your \$50 admission helps Art for Life support Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network in providing compassionate care for people living with AIDS and their loved ones, while promoting preventive education to stem the tide of HIV infection in Sonoma County. 2-6pm (silent auction begins promptly at 2pm). Friedman Center, 4675 Mayette Ave., Santa Rosa. Info: 707-544-1581; www.f2f.org/art

'The Legend of Shaolin' @ Chinese Culture Center

The SF Arts Commission's Chinatown Community Arts Program presents "Night of the Rising Stars — The Legend of Shaolin," an exhibition of Chinese martial arts and dance, hosted by Sifu Bryant Fong and the SF Wushu Team. Various styles of Wushu and T'ai Chi will be demonstrated. Plus dances by the Chinese Folk Dance Assn., drumming by SF Taiko Dojo, the amazing Chinese yo-yo, and more. \$10. 3-6pm. Holiday Inn — Chinatown, 750 Kearny St., 3rd floor. Tix at the door or from: Wushu ReISA, 753-3838; SF



Matthew Vierling and David Bicha (along with Sarah Mitchell and PA Cooley) perform in "A Beautiful Man" at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. See Friday.

R. Paul Vintz

Taiko Dojo, 928-2456; or East Wind Books, Berkeley, 510-548-2350. Info: www.beijingbagua.com

'Modinhas'
@ St. Matthew's
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church presents "Modinhas," an afternoon of late 18th-century Brazilian art songs. These are lyrical and sentimental solo songs and duets, written by anonymous composers and accompanied by guitar and harpsichord. Featuring soprano Claire Kelm, mezzo-soprano Elspeth Franks, harpsichordist Charles Rus and guitarist Mauro Correa. \$10-\$15 donation. 3pm. 3281 16th St. (across from Mission Dolores).

Mon

'Evening of American Cabaret'

@ Herbst Theatre

The Mabel Mercer Foundation in association with Bill Lanese presents an "Evening of American Cabaret." A dozen of the world's finest exponents of the great, classic popular songbook converge for an extraordinary evening to benefit The Mabel Mercer foundation, named for the incomparable cabaret singer whose career spanned nearly 70 years. Starring (in alphabetical order) Christine Andreas, Klea Blackhurst, Spencer Day, Jeff Harnar, Andrea Marcovicci, Sylvia McNair, Sidney Myer, Georgia Osborne, Craig Rubano, KT Sullivan, Lumir Tubo, and Westa Whitley & Mike Greensill. The Foundation's annual Cabaret Convention happens in October in New York's Town Hall. \$25-\$75. 7:30pm. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400; cityboxoffice.com

Earplay @ Yerba Buena Center

The San Francisco International Arts Festival (SFIAF) 2003 presents "Earplay Outside Korea," highlighting composers of Korean Heritage and their creative contributions. Featuring the world premiere of "Ocean/Shore 2" for clarinet and string trio by Hyo-shin Na; "Espace I" for cello and piano by Isang Yung; the impressionistic duo Thalia Moore on cello and Karen Rosenak on piano; "Scenes from a Movie, Part 1, the Seventh Dream" for soprano, baritone and piano trio by Ko-Asian-American Earl Kim, with Ki Yeon Cho soprano and Hugh Russell baritone, with Mary Chun conducting; and Die Insel Schwimmt (The Island Floats) for percussion and piano by Karen Rosenak (piano) and Victor Avdienko (percussion). \$18 (\$12 students/members). 8pm (pre-concert talk 7:15pm). YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St. Tix: 978-ARTS;

'The Gardens of Tuscany' @ Instituto Italiano di Cultura

Opening reception: Landscape designer Stephen Suzman introduces his photographic exhibit "The Gardens of Tuscany," representing the sensual delights of Tuscan villas, countryside, farmland, and landscape architecture. Presented by the Region of Tuscany in collaboration with Instituto Italiano di Cultura, the Association Lucchesi nel Mondo of SF, and the Tuscany Club of Sacramento. Free. 6:30pm. Exhibit runs thru Oct. 4. (9am-5pm Mon-Fri). Instituto Italiano di Cultura, 425 Washington St. RSVP requested at 788-7142 ext. 18.



Photo Credit

West Coast Premiere at The LAB: Carla Harryman's "Performing Objects Stationed in the SubWorld." See Wednesday.

Tue

San Francisco Mayoral Candidates' Forum @ CPMC/Davies Medical Center

Several San Francisco neighborhood organizations (Duboce Triangle, Hayes Valley, Buena Vista, Mt. Olympus, along with Castro Area Planning + Action) host a Mayoral Candidates' Forum, to which "all leading Candidates have been invited and have confirmed their attendance." Each candidate will give opening and closing statements, and respond to questions from the sponsor organizations and the audience. Free. 6:30-9:30pm. Auditorium on Level B in the North Tower, CPMC/Davies Medical Center, Castro at Duboce streets.

'Cuba on My Mind'
@ The Art Gallery, SF State University
Just opened: "Cuba on My Mind," an exhibition of works by emerging artists Rafael Arzuaga and Juan Carlos Quintana whose oils on canvas cross cultural and regional boundaries. Free. Mon.-Wed. 10am-6pm; Thu. & Fri. 10am-3pm. Thru Oct. 1. Cesar Chavez Student Center Art Gallery (Terrace Level), SF State University. Info: 338-2580; sfstudentcenter.com/artgallery

Footloose Presents @ Venue 9

"Women's Work," produced by Mary Alice Fry, presents three acts: Kavita Bali's lyrical film *Namaste Papaji* ("Welcome Grandfather"), about how a multi-generational friendship can provide a foundation for courage and acceptance; Christi Denton's "Working Girl," a sound collaged mixed by live composer, featuring recordings of 60 women at work — firefighters, mothers, beauty pageant winners, zookeepers, welders, musicians, baristas, activists, train engineers and warehouse workers; and HeartRhythms DrumChoir in "Drum Nation," traditional Congolese rhythms by a multi-racial/cultural women's percussion band directed by Yolanda S. Vierra Allen (Luna Sea 10th anniversary; Hopland Women's Music Fest, etc.). \$8-\$10 sliding.

8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

Wed

'Performing Objects Stationed in the Sub World' @ The LAB

Gala opening/reception: The LAB's 20th Anniversary Season kicks off with the West Coast premiere of Carla Harryman's "Performing Objects Stationed in the SubWorld," created in collaboration with director Jim Cave, visual artist Amy Trachtenberg, and composer Erling Wold (Queer). Featuring principal actors Ken Berry, Annie Kung-jappy, Walonda J. Lewis, and Roham Shaikhani. The play portrays a world always under construction, situated between the sliding borders of city and suburbs, and between commonplace existence and fantasy. Gatherings, encounters, collisions, and accidental meetings of words, objects and persons take place within the sub world. \$20 gala; \$10-\$20 sliding other nights (Sept. 12-27). 8pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Tix/info: 864-8855; www.thelab.org

'Suspended Passage' @ The LAB

Opening reception: The LAB's Foyer Gallery presents Amy Trachtenberg's exhibit, *Suspended Passage*. Trachtenberg has designed the visual elements for more than 20 opera, dance and theater performances, and her paintings hand in public and private collections of embassies, banks, an corporations in Houston, Paris, Heidelberg, New York, and SF. Free. 6-8pm.

'Mother Of Us All' @ SF Opera

The San Francisco Opera and the SF Int'l. Arts Fest present *The Mother Of Us All*, with libretto by Gertrude Stein and music by Virgil Thomson, a chronicle of the life of suffragette Susan B. Anthony, with historical figures such as John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant and Daniel Webster. Starring Luana DeVolle in the title role, with Stephanie Novacek and Judith Christin. \$24-\$155. 7:30pm. War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave. (at Grove). Info: www.sfiartsfest.org

Ivy League women @ Home

FFR/Princeton btGALA, HGLC, Penn GALA, Stanford Pride, and Vassar present "A Women's LBT Intercollegiate Reception." Lesbian, bi, and transgendered women alumnae of the Ivy League and

Seven Sisters College are converging at Home, the casual eatery in the Castro. Come out and join them! All women welcome. No cover, cash bar. 7-9pm. Home, 2100 Market St. (at Church). Info: alumni.princeton.edu/~ffr/Events/030910SFWo.html

Thu

Marcel Khalifé/KITKA @ YBCA Theatre

The San Francisco International Arts Festival/World Music Festival present the centerpiece of this year's fest: "Embracing Global Peace," a commissioned half-evening orchestral work with libretto by accomplished Lebanese writer/composer Marcel Khalifé in collaboration with the women's vocal ensemble KITKA (Shira Cion, Artistic Director), the SF Chamber Orchestra, Benjamin Simon, AD, and soloists Omayma Al-Kalil (vocals), Zhang Xiao Feng (erhu), and Pu Hai (Chinese percussion). \$25-\$100. 8pm. YBCA Theatre, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 978-ARTS; www.sfiartsfest.org

Kirk Read & Matt Sycamore @ Modern Times Bookstore

Authors/performers Kirk Read (How I Learned to Snap) and Matt Bernstein Sycamore (Pulling Taffy) joined forces for a recent tour of the northwest. Now they bring the "Queen's English Tour" home to San Francisco. Their performances are full of surprises, new work and topical rants. 7pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 282-9246

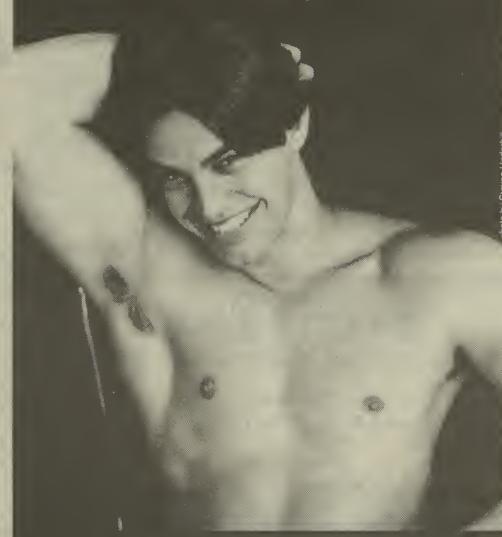
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Atta Boy, Joey!

Joey Sequeira is SF Leatherdaddy's Boy XXI

by Mister Marcus

Joey Sequeira was chosen by judges to be the 21st San Francisco Leather Daddy's Boy last Sunday, August 31st at the Eagle Tavern. It happened before a packed and enthusiastic crowd. Joey and two other contestants — Nick Pannozzo and Michael Holman — faced judges Will Brunner, Tom Rodgers, Daddy J, Ross Dierking and Jason Ladd in interviews, speeches, and question & answers. MCs Lenny Brobert and Tony Koester staged some salty shenanigans for the contest. The "can you top this?" bout between Lenny and Tony continued throughout unabated.

Joey Sequeira is a seasoned leather personality with a track record in volunteerism and charity work, so he should have a great year with the title. Boy Will Brunner gave a 6 1/2 minute step-aside speech thanking all who helped him during his title year and stated he was only "stepping aside".

The contestants sold raffle tickets good for some goodies donated by Gauntlet Piercing, Rock Hard and Stompers Boots, to name a few sterling companies. Everybody enjoyed a superb fried chicken, potato salad and cookies, all prepared and served by volunteers who scurried hither and yon to make it a success.

Celebrity participants included Former Leather Daddies Andre English and Keith Truitt at the ticket window, and Country Western singer Doug Graff, who had problems with the microphone and made no bones about advising the Eagle Tavern management to get a new microphone system. Plus a lot of leather women were on hand for the 21st edition of this particular contest.

It was a great day in San Francisco as the tradition started by Alan Selby placed yet another chapter in the history books. Good show all around!

New Orleans/ Midwest reports

Contest news has finally reached us from New Orleans, Louisiana. George Hester of the Lords of Leather made it under the wire at my deadline with the results of the Mr. Louisiana Leather 2003 Contest in New Orleans during the Southern Decade next page ►



Joey Sequeira was chosen SF Leather Daddy's Boy XXI last Sunday, August 31 at the Eagle Tavern. The contest drew a crowd of some 300 spectators cheering for the contenders.



The Great Lakes Leather Sir/boy contests in Indianapolis concluded the weekend of August 22-24 and yielded Boy Titus (left) of Columbus, Ohio as the GL Leather boy and Bill Morse of Chicago as GL Leather Sir.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 4

Glenn Tanking steps aside tonight as Mr. Daddy's Leather 2004 is chosen to compete at Mr. SF Leather later this month. It was a good year for Glenn and thanks for all your efforts. Action is around 2100.

Saturday, September 6

The SoMa Bare Chest Calendar men travel to Los Angeles and the Faultline Bar to sell and autograph the 2004 calendar hosted by Mr. LA Leather Stephen Blackwell and Mr. SF Leather Troy Anicete. Lenny Broberg will be the MC. A \$3 donation is requested. This one's definitely worth the trip...and airfare is cheap these days girls.

Sunday, September 7

Mama's Leather Man Keith Folger hosts a beer/soda bust at the Loading Dock from 1800 to 2100 to benefit Magnet. Undoubtedly a good time and a great cause.

Weekend, September 11-14

Mr. Las Vegas Leather and Leather Boy competition at the Blue Moon Resort in that desert city. For info click on scents-cerelyours/mrlv2003.htm.

Saturday, September 13

The Annual Butch Review show takes place at The Hole in San Diego. It's always a great event. Info? Email: LthrWitch3@yahoo.com.

Monday, September 15

Lenny Broberg, among others, will be honored at the 8th Annual HIV Prevention Awards at Ruby Skye at 1800. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased by calling 415-575-0150, Extension 260.

Weekend, September 19-21

Mr. Dixie Belle Leather and Heart of America Leather Boy this weekend in Kansas City, MO. I'll be there judging so you'll be the first to know who succeeds Zack Marquardt and Fat Boy Chuck.

POLKSTRASSE

Relax and drink up!

by Sweet Lips

I know you're all busy and have so many things to do, but I think you should slow down and take some time to enjoy yourselves! Go ahead and unburden! One way to do that is by dropping into our lovely Club Rendez-Vous this Friday, September 5, for 'Til 100, a special show starting at 9 p.m. with "Best of the Guests," continuing on to "Return to Oz" at 10 p.m., and culminating with the final act at midnight, "Annihilating the Extravaganza!" These shows are not to be missed!



Cocktail Hour

So relax already, and call for reservations at 673-7934.

Locals here on Polk Street will be fêting our favorite Post Mistress, Ms. Linda Miller, who will be celebrating her 60th birthday from 4-8 p.m. on

Thursday, September 11, at Club Rendez-Vous. The affair will be tastefully catered by the renowned Chef Dennis Tyler, so don't miss this chance to say hello!

Over in the Castro, there's a new feeling at The Mix, formerly Uncle Bert's. The lounge has an all-new look, there's a smoking patio, and yes, that friendly Mr. Marlow is working on Saturdays and Sundays

from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., so drop in and let him know what you think of the new bar!

Mark your calendars now for the great Sidewalk Sale on September 20-21, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day, at the intersection of Pine & Leavenworth. The Pine Street Volunteers are putting it on for the 16th year, with all money raised going to the AIDS Emergency Fund. Bring your penny collections for the big jar! You'll find all sorts of great bargains in housewares, jewelry, electronics, antiques, books/CDs, artwork, plants and more. Plus food, drink and entertainment!

Last but not least, a big hearty Happy Birthday on Sept. 5 to the wonderful Ms. Charlotte Coleen! You go, gal! ▼

Global explorations

by Jason Serinus

The appearance of a classical musician on a world- or pop-music compendium has frequently been decried as "crossover." The core classics, after all, have long been draped in an overlay of elitism that suggests that those who venture beyond the boundaries of the concert hall are betraying their ranks. It was not that long ago that Metropolitan Opera General Director Rudolf Bing fired Wagnerian soprano Helen Traubel for singing in a nightclub. And in 2001, mezzo Anne Sofie Von Otter, who makes her long-awaited Cal Performances recital debut next January, temporarily fell from grace in *Gramophone* when she recorded her anything-but-operatic *Last in the Stars* collaboration with Elvis Costello.

Sometimes the label "crossover" is appropriate. There's no question that major record labels, faced with declining sales and an appalling cessation of music education, have been scrambling to ignite the fires of consumption under new listeners by initiating crossover projects. But it's equally true that many classical performers now feel free to channel their genuine passion for folk, world, and popular music into genuine artistic statements.



Need historical precedent for such exploration? Nineteenth-century European composers such as Brahms and Dvorak, and 20th-century Americans such as Ives and Copland, set about adopting traditional folk melodies, songs and hymns into classical composition. Jazz made its entry as well, with Ravel and Gershwin incorporating jazz rhythms into their music.

Two recent releases featuring internationally-known classical artists explore the traditional and new music of Brazil and Argentina. The sincerity of these endeavors suggests that these projects would best be understood, not as crossover, but rather as acts of love.

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma's love for Brazilian music shines on *Obrigado Brazil* (Sony). "I've always loved Brazilian music," Ma explains. "There's an undercurrent of sensuality in it that is incredibly seductive." To hear his cello

echo clarinet master Paquito d'Rivera's insinuating coolness on *Jacó da Bandolim*'s "Doce de Coco" and *Pixinguinha*'s sensuous "Carinhoso" is a joy. The contrast between Ma's relaxed sound in contemporary Brazilian music and his more "classical" phrasing in the two Villa-Lobos works on the program only increases admiration.

Equal enthusiasm extends to *Será una Noche: La Segunda* (M.A.), a quasi-improvisatory exploration which fuses Argentinean tango with "diverse contemporary and ancient musics, Indian classical music, baroque music and free improvisation." The disc features traditional pieces composed around the beginning of the 20th century, when the tango was young. Although project co-instigator Santiago Vazquez notes that in these arrangements one can hear older musical styles such as *milongas* (rhythms with African influence) and a *habanera*, as well as original music inspired by Argentinean folk rhythms, the modern arrangements render most traditional melodies barely recognizable. The degree of jazz improvisation heard on the opening selection's tango *milonga* "El Choclo" may disturb an ethnomusicologist devoted to preserving indigenous music, but the results are marvelous. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

dence weekend.

The final tally: Tim Lott of Metarie, Louisiana won the title and the sash. Ben Bourgeois of Hammond was the first runner-up, and Jim Johnson of Monroe was the second runner-up.

Elsewhere, Indianapolis, Indiana has emerged as the Midwest's leather hot spot with the establishment of the Great Lakes Leather Alliance (GLLA) which staged their second annual leather weekend August 22-24. Almost 300 people registered for the 24 workshops, three dungeons, a poolside master/slave auction, and five leather title contests.

The winners: Great Lakes Master/slave: Mistress Constance and slave Drew of Louisville, KY; Great Lakes Bootblack: Izzy of Milwaukee; Great Lakes Leather

Sir : Bill Morse; Great Lakes Leather boy: Boytitus of Columbus, Ohio; and Great Lakes Ms. Leather Pride: Katie "Kat" Bush of Steubenville, Ohio. Executive Director Kendra McClain is delighted at the turnout and proud of her staff and invites you all to next year's production. For more info, click on greatlakesleather.org.

Items of note

The correct names of the new Mr. and Ms. Oregon State 2004 titles are Mister Earl Coffman and Ms. Alycyn Britton. One of these days Black Light Productions will learn how to write a press release with photos of their winners!

The defunct Outcasts have settled their business. Their records have been donated to the GLBT Historical Society and their banner to the LA&M in Chicago. All expenses have been settled and \$600 was distributed (\$100 each) to the AEF, LA&M,

GLBT Historical Society, the Spanner Trust in London, Little Sisters Defense Fund in Vancouver, BC and Women's Cancer Resource Center in Oakland.

The Leather Dyke Family of SF (LDF) has established its Board of Directors and transitioned from a charitable business to a nonprofit organization. The new board members are Tony Koester, Karen Schoonmaker, Billie Mandel and Bernice Straub. A community advisory committee is being planned, according to Mitch Dubin. We love success!

National pride has prompted Canada's leather community to establish the titles Canadian Leather Man, Woman and Boy under the Canadian Leather Alliance (*L'Alliance Canadienne du Cuir*). A competition for those titles will be staged by the committee representing Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Moncton. Stay tuned for developments. ▼

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MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

Russian River Area ISO

Wayne used to be roommates and you worked at Sweet's Restaurant. Also Richard Lanzendorfer and other old friends. I'm in Hawaii. Please contact me, Craig Bailey. Leave phone and address. ☎ 72699

Judah Muni 7/25

Thank for the wave when you got off at Sunset. You. KQED jacket. Me: Denim shirts. Let's meet and talk. ☎ 72700

"Jeff, Where Are You?"

We got together a month ago, partied etc. and I love your thick dick. Please call me so we can get together again. ☎ 72705

Diamond Heights Safeway 7/29

You- green shirt, blue eyes: chicken pot pie, milano cookies, milk for dinner. Me: grey polar-fleece, green eyes, tortilla chips, salsa, pepsi as snacks for friends. How about dining... together? ☎ 72706

I Want You To Be My Baby...

We met outside Badlands on Saturday. We kissed and fireworks went off in my heart. I didn't believe in love at first sight until I met you. Talk to me stoopid. Angel. ☎ 72714

Cute Oakland Kosher Guy @ Fair

The tension at the dessert competition was caused by your adorable self - I came in 2nd at the fair, though I'd like to come in 1st with you! ☎ 72782

Fife's Resort Aug 15, 16, Fr/Sa

We smiled and looked at each other a lot outside. You wore long blue jeans; me, 15-20 yrs older, short brown hair. We talked about the puppy. I want to know you! ☎ 72795

Love The Lip Ring, Tatoos.

Sunday afternoon at the #5 stop. You, a vision in a powder blue muscle shirt. Me, a sight with books and a cane. You made my day. Can we talk? ☎ 72796

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

GAM in Stockton Sks Honest LTR

GAM, 37, 5'7", 155lbs looking for sensitive, straight/acting male. You: honest, caring, weight and height proportionate in your 40's. Prefer someone that is uncomplicated with sense of humor. ☎ 72701

Bald, But Cute GWM 42

5'10", 165 lbs, in shvn, glasses, HIV- sense of humor & sweet prof. Sks strong, masculine GM, like hanging out at home, food, art, movies, entertainment, beaches, drives, & sex! Very affectionate too! ☎ 72702

Mulatto Guy Sexy Light-Skinned

Hot good looking, educated, intelligent. Looking for someone for a relationship, fun, sex, etc. ☎ 72707

WM 48, 6, 165lbs, Dark Hair

ISO M over 55 who enjoy deep kissing, affection, oral pleasures. Husky-heavyset, bearded, rustic-looking, liberal views, loners a plus. Smoking ok but no drugs or gay scene. ☎ 72708

"Seeking Romance"

GJM 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex-ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companion. ☎ 72715

Where've All The Cowboys Gone!

GWM 39/6/1550lbs (Healthy HIV+) ISO slender GM for Irl. Must be honest, true, and need a lot of love. Cause I have a lot to give to the right guy! ☎ 72716

Good Looking GWM 36

GWM CMT looking for Latino or Asian for Irl. I am HIV- disease free. I enjoy movies, the beach, dancing, holding hands, let's talk. ☎ 72717

White Man Wanted For Lover

White man 50 5'11", 197lbs seeking White man 40-60 for relationship love to cuddle and kiss. ☎ 72784

Bik Top Dominant Sks Bttm Boy

6'2", 225lb, 39yr old total masculine top HIV- seeks total submissive bttm to play deep and hard. Fun! ☎ 72777

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"Males"

Latinos, Asians, Middle Eastern, mixed race a plus, 18-30, HIV+, good teeth, slim or muscle bound, nice swollen nipples, nice round butt. GWM, 52, 208, ch 50" HIV+, goodlooking. ☎ 72718

"Models"

I design mens under garments, need someone who can understand my work. Do you have the body and mind I need? 18-30, Latino, Asian, mixed race, muscle bound. ☎ 72719

Brown Sugar Latin Guy 36 Yrs.

Nice Latin boy 36 yrs old 5'8", 155 masculine nice slim muscular body. Verunimportant. Under 160lbs. No drugs. For relationship call. ☎ 72720

"Light Skinned"

Young attractive or goodlooking 18-30 Latino's, Blacks, Asians, and Whites mixed race. HIV+, clean hygiene, good teeth, no clovins. Slim or muscular, swollen nipples, round butt, no fats. ☎ 72783

"18 To 25"

Latinos, Asians, light skinned Blacks, mixed race, HIV-, clean hygiene, round butt, swollen nipples is a plus, safe sex, good teeth, smooth body, good sucker, kisser, muscle bound or slim. ☎ 72785

"9 1/2" To 10" And 7 1/2"

GWM, 52, 5'10", 208, 50" ch., HIV-, brn eyes long black hair, aggressive. You: 18-30 slim or muscular, any race, Latinos, HIV-, clean hygiene, round butt, and big swollen nipples. ☎ 72786

"ISO You!"

GWM 42 masculine, attractive, enjoys working out movies, outdoor activities seeks GM 35-55 who shares the same interest... Antioch. ☎ 72797

Looking For That Special Asian Man

GWM, late forties, attractive & healthy, build will, mustache seeks similar quiet, sensitive, romantic minded Asian man under 50 yrs for a lifetime soul mate. Saturday evenings walks on the beach, lots of kissing and great sex! I'm looking for a committed relationship and hope you are too. ☎ 72798

GWM Wanted For Relationship

GWM 50, humorous, smart, honest, HIV- negative seeks similar GWM 30-50 for companionship and long-term relationship. I'm 5'10", 175lbs, with many interests. ☎ 72799

SEEKING ADVENTURE

"Boysish Asian"

Seeking smooth muscular guy toned White male to massage, jerk off and oral service on a regular basis. Blond plus. ☎ 72709

Straight White Men!

Real good business. Let's get together to party, watch videos, have sex, or a relationship. If hung A-. Call me. ☎ 72710

Spank My Butt & Plow My Ass!

Hot, masculine submissive bottom with nice round ass, tight virgin hole, deep throat, young 46, 5'11", 165, shaved head, goatee, runner, needs discipline, "Sir". ☎ 72711

"Adventure"

GJM 48 into heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b worship, oral, drinking/partying, your place. PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimportant to both of us. ☎ 72774

"Shut-Up And Ride!"

WM 38, 5'10", 190lb, blond/blue muscular top wants good looking men and/or women to screw call anytime. ☎ 72775

Seeking Senior Top 70 Or Older

Novice submissive 60 needs hard face pounding with facial cum bath. Make me your on-call fuck face cum smeared slave always there when you're feeling horny. ☎ 72776

Rim Seat Service

WM, 6', 165lbs dk. I like to be dominated by gentle senior men- alone or in groups. Open to kink but no pain, S&M, va, gay scene. Husky/ heavyset a plus. ☎ 72793

Asian Master Wanted!

GWM wants to submit & serve. If you like to play games of cop/criminal, master/slave, etc. Let me know what you expect of me. ☎ 72794

Boy Needs Stern Discipline

Bottom boy, 5'10", 160lbs, bbb, 27yo. seeks dominant and strict discipline to provide punishment with cane, strap, whip, switches, etc. I am serious. Sex optional. ☎ 72804

COUPLES

"At Last... Real Sex!!!"

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SWM 63yrs. 175lbs

Seeking, SWM 50-65, must be clean & discreet MWM ok. ☎ 72778

"Kiss My Red Red Rose"

Hot buzzcut 35 y/o Pacific Islander with beautiful round butt ISO Caucasians, Latinos, Greeks. Deep throat is my expertise. Get ready for a surprise of a lifetime. ☎ 72787

GWM Seeking Asian 55+

Seeking Asian 55+ for play- j/o- bf- does not have to reciprocate- watching movie. GWM- young 60+ will please you. ☎ 72788

Passionately Hungry Bottom

39yo, HZ, GWM 6'1", 175, brn, hz seeking hot guy to top my eyes 40-50yo. Let's hook up and take pleasure to a new level. Mutual cumming, kissing lots of foreplay. ☎ 72789

Seeking Couple For Play

Asian boy toy seeking White or Asian male couple or combo for fun safe discreet play, oral, jerk off and more! ☎ 72790

Wild Freedom To Be Ourselves!

Gdkng, eager GWM, 5'8", trim, masculine, suntanned, HIV-, seeks men into intimate sensual/safe sexual exploration. Included: piercings, tattoos, rituals, longhair, foot/nudity fetishes, roles, fantasies, j/o, Fun/friendship. ☎ 72800

Santa Rosa Native

GWM, 42, 5'10", 170lbs. Ex-navy, mobile home owner. Enjoys chess, tennis, drumming and outdoors. Seeks relationship. ☎ 72801

Party Of Four

Attractive White and Asian couple seeking similar for foursome or switching partners. We're smooth, trim, versatile, and love sex! ☎ 72802

Naked Man Needs A. M. Training

Looking for stocky dom, fun top 40-50 who would like to be in a tall attr 40 yo bottom. I like being spanked clothes pins, tit work, teach me to take it. Weekday mornings only. ☎ 72803

FETISHES

Your Butt, My Face

Horny uncut redhead gives rimming service. ☎ 72703

ISO Serious Nipple Workout Buddy

48yr, GWM stocky, 220#, brn/brown salt & pepper goatee, tat's piercing, smoker! I'm a serious nippig pig with huge erect nipples. ISO super maso, dominant nipp pig. I'm a workout sessions & growth in mind serious smoker A+. Please call. ☎ 72704

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Drag Queens Threesome Ravish

Me, JC, Bi- Chicano male, 55yrs old. ISO drag queens very femme, cigar-smokers, 69, suck, 21-30 only, black阳县, tight ass, drug-free. ☎ 72713

"Stroking For Hours"

Seeking masculine/average guy for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship. Drinking/partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 72779

Dominant Leather Top

Seeks in shape boys 18-38 for hot B&D. Top: 6'1", 160, 190lbs out, HIV- East Bay. ☎ 72780

"Bondage Hobo"

Homeless man available for bondage scenes, want nice tool. Big shoulders, full body, hairy chest, hazel eyes, freckles, 13ee feet. Your place, my mat?? ☎ 72781

Uncle Tickler

Uncle Tickler can make it slow and sensual or wild and playful! I will find where you are most sensitive. Wooden Bondage Bunk Bed! Smooth and Asian A+. ☎ 72791

Rim Seat Service

WM, 6', 165lbs dk. I like to be dominated by gentle senior men- alone or in groups. Open to kink but no pain, S&M, va, gay scene. Husky/ heavyset a plus. ☎ 72793

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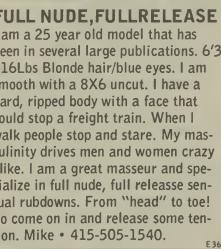
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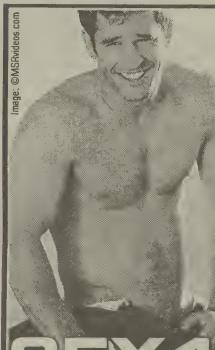
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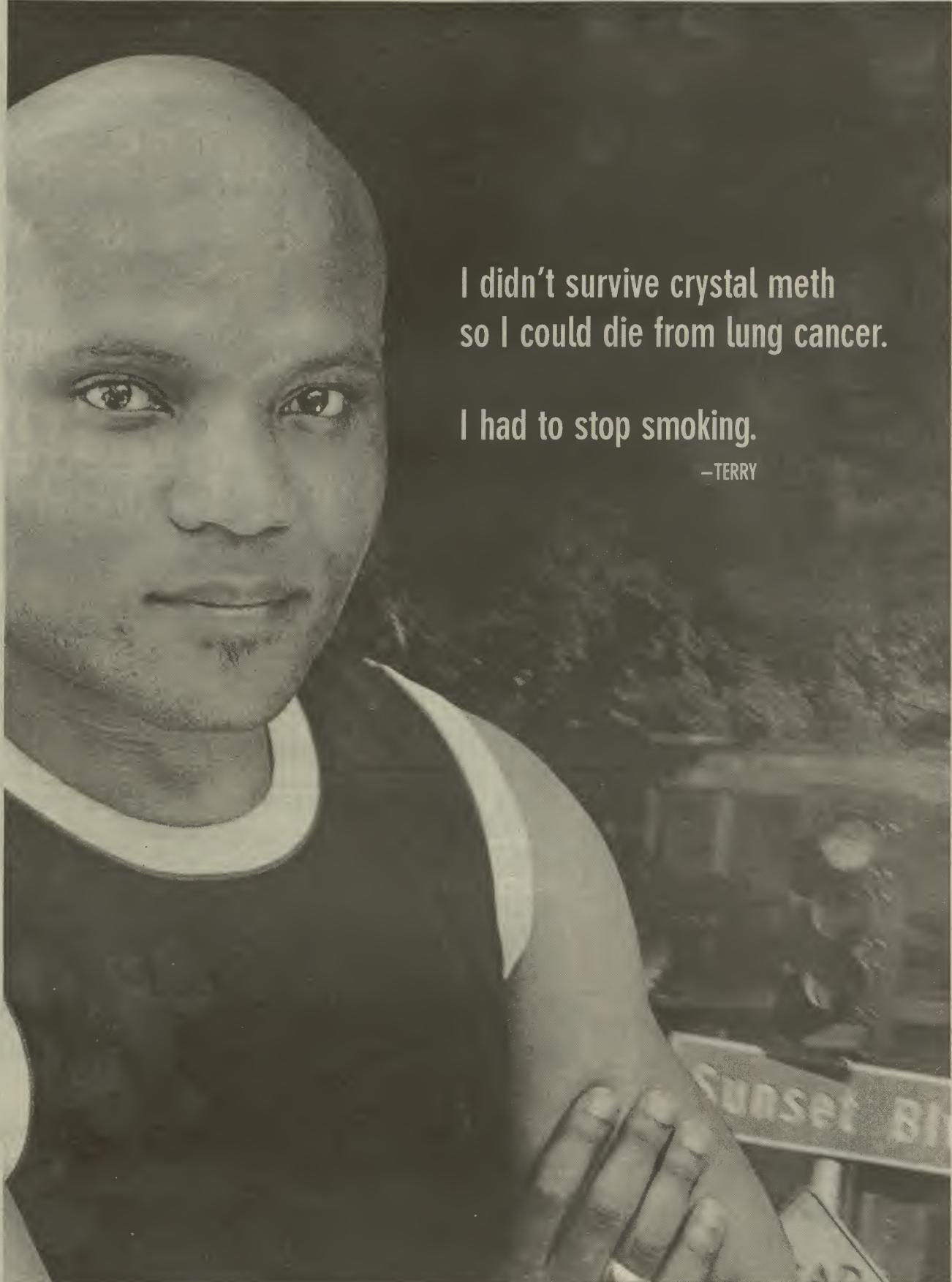
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